

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Volume 14 Number 3998

AMMAN MONDAY JANUARY 30, 1989, JUMADA AL AQIRA 22, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Arafat expects Israel to invade Lebanon

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat believes Israel is preparing to invade South Lebanon to distract attention from the occupied territories and derail Middle East peace moves, a Danish opposition leader said Sunday. Svend Auken, leader of Denmark's Social Democratic Party, told Reuters: "He has intelligence reports indicating without any doubt that Israel is planning a new invasion. They (the PLO) see the same pattern of preparation as before the 1982 invasion (of Lebanon) — ammunition and war material amassed in the border region. Arafat seemed very depressed about it. "He was speaking after three-hour talks over dinner Saturday with Arafat and his aides. "He took it very seriously. He saw a sinister pattern in this — that for the right wing in the Israeli cabinet this would be a way of turning world opinion away from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and of short-circuiting the peace process," Auken said. Auken heads one of three Scandinavian delegations having talks with the PLO in Tunis. "This (an invasion) would trigger a violent Palestinian reaction... once you started a vicious circle of military activity it would be unstoppable," he added.

## Soviet spacecraft enters Mars orbit

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet spacecraft Phobos was thrust into orbit around Mars Sunday, the climax of a multinational mission to prepare for a manned flight to the planet. TASS news agency said a brake engine was switched on Sunday at 12:55 GMT and the craft, launched on July 12, began to orbit the planet. It said two tracking stations were following its progress. Nikolai Ikonov, one of the programme's directors, told TASS that the craft would eventually shift its course towards one of the planet's moons, Phobos, after which the project was named. It said the craft would eventually lower itself 50 kilometres to come within 30 metres of the moon's surface and a special module would actually land on Phobos. "For 25 minutes, the equipment aboard the station will be able to carry out radio location and a television panoramic survey of Phobos," TASS quoted him as saying. It would take about a month before the craft could land on the surface of the moon.

## King receives Malaysian air chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al-Nadwa Palace Sunday afternoon General Tan Sri Hassem, Malaysia's air force commander and a delegation accompanying him.

Tan conveyed to the King greetings from the Malaysian monarch who wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

The King and the Malaysian guest discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in military fields. King Hussein later conferred on Tan the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order and received from the general the shield of the Malaysian armed forces as a token gift.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday presents the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order to Malaysia's air force commander General Tan Sri Hassem (Petra photo).

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Later, the King hosted a lunch in honour of the Malaysian guest.

Later Tuesday, Gen. Abu Taleb received Gen. Tan and reviewed with him the military situation in the region and scopes of cooperation, as well as issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by a number of senior aides and commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Gen. Tan arrived in Amman Sunday morning on a several-day official visit to Jordan during which he will visit a number of military and archaeological sites and meet with a number of Jordanian officials.

## King: Progress in two months towards peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said progress towards an international peace conference on the Middle East may start following a two-month settling-in period for the new American administration.

"We have to wait at least two months until the new administration of the United States outlines its foreign policy," the King was quoted as saying in an interview with the Arabic-language daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

"Then the mechanism of worldwide and regional moves

will start," the King added.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday he would "wait to see how we go forward," before considering a meeting between a high level U.S. official and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to discuss a Middle East settlement.

"We are just starting. You crawl before you work," Bush added.

Al Ra'i quoted the King as saying he senses an improvement in the Middle East's psychological outlook due to

improved economic cooperation, international moves to

hold a Middle East peace conference and worldwide efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

"We still think that there is a need to convene an Arab summit to crystallise a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese problem before it is too late," the King said.

King Hussein said Israeli public opinion was more amenable to the idea of an international peace conference.

"The required change in the

Israeli position has begun," he said.

The King referred to a recent public opinion poll in Israel which revealed that 54 per cent of the Israelis are inclined towards peace.

King Hussein said four Arab states — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — were serious about forming an economic grouping that would be open to all Arab states not already members of existing Gulf or Maghreb groups.

The King expressed confidence that Jordan has weathered a period of economic difficulty.

"The period of economic hardship that Jordan underwent is over and behind us now," he said.

He added that the "financial and social reform movement, undertaken by all sectors, puts our economy in a good position" because it has put the economy on a basis of self-dependency.

## Jordan, Egypt to boost cooperation in all fields

CAIRO (Petra) — The prime ministers of Jordan and Egypt, Zaid Rifai and Atef Sedki, Sunday signed minutes of the ninth Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings which covered cooperation in different fields.

Following the signing ceremony, the two prime ministers made speeches pledging continued efforts to attain further progress and a greater measure of integration and coordination between the two countries.

Following are highlights of the minutes:

**Economic cooperation and trade**  
The two sides agreed that they should pay up their shares to the joint holding company's capital. Egypt and Jordan will jointly pay 10 per cent of the total capital which is equal to \$2.5 million by July 1989.

The two sides voiced satisfaction with the company's decision to set up lean meat and animal feed projects with a \$20.2 million capital. The company will acquire a 20 per cent share in the capital of the project and the rest will be offered in the form of shares to various Arab banks and organisations.

The holding company will speed up work on a feasibility study for an agricultural seeds project which should be completed by the end of March 1989 so that the ministries of agriculture in both countries can embark

on plans to carry it out.

Studies on the joint fisheries project should also be completed in three months' time, and the Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Association will be requested to help create a joint tourist investment company in which the holding company will acquire a 10 per cent share.

The two sides agreed to allow the Jordanian and Egyptian trade centres in Cairo and Amman to open accounts in foreign, convertible currencies and they will adhere to the provisions of the trade protocol concluded in 1988. Jordan will issue special import licences for the Egyptian trade centre in Amman and the Egyptian trade fair which will be held in Amman in March.

The two sides agreed to convene a meeting of the joint trade committee in May 1989 to lay down plans for helping the two countries to exchange goods together worth \$350 million during 1989 and to increase the quotas of the trade centres.

They agreed to set up a joint technical committee from the two national airlines to reach a settlement on outstanding financial issues.

**Industry**  
They agreed to form joint committees to carry out coordination in industry, chemical fertilisers, industrial machinery, electronics and food processing industries. They agreed to encourage

establishment of specialised bodies to help in industrial engineering and to promote marketing of industrial products and to streamline industrial production and legislation.

The two sides decided to organise joint seminars and to take part in industrial fairs to help or promote the sale of national products. They pledged to abide by specifications and standards as worked out by a joint technical committee.

They agreed on plans for promoting vocational training, encouraging meetings by industrialists from both countries benefiting from findings of specialised research centres.

Specialists from the ministries of planning should coordinate their regional planning, set up a joint team to help carry out regional planning in stages and carry out integrated studies on the integration of southern Jordan with Sinai.

**Agriculture**  
Jordan and Egypt will continue to exchange expertise and information on agriculture, land reform, irrigation, project assessment schemes and animal husbandry.

They will also exchange visits by experts and hold meetings to help eliminate diseases affecting plants, and to market agricultural produce. They agreed on coordination of training personnel in packing and grading crops, gathering information on production of animal wealth, and animal

(Continued on page 4)

## Sayeh praises Jordanian-Palestinian ties as stronger than any Arab links

By Sameer Al Hiyari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh has described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as unique and stronger than any ties between two Arab countries and said such a state of relations stemmed from Jordan's keen interest in solving the Palestinian problem in the best interests of the Palestinian people.

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army sealed the homes of six Palestinian activists accused of attacking soldiers and Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel. The army has regularly destroyed or sealed houses of Palestinian activists.

In Nabulus, the West Bank's largest city, leaflets appeared for the first time signed by the Arab Socialist Baath Party, Arab reporters said.

The leaflets condemned American imperialism and said Palestinians who favour elections are playing into Israel's hands. "The only language that the enemy understands is the thug's language," they said.

Sources said the army arrested 150 people in the West Bank towns of Tulkarem Saturday night during an operation to round up local activists.

Jordan.

Sayeh said it was too early to form a Palestinian government and that the issue was subject to the approval of the PNC, which declared the State of Palestine at a meeting in Algiers in November.

He said no Palestinian from the occupied territories will be a member of a Palestinian government as long as the territories remained under occupation.

Sayeh said Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was in fulfilment of the Palestinian leadership's wishes voiced at various Arab summits. "The Jordanian decision blocked Israel's designs and put an end to concepts that do not serve the higher interests of the Arabs and Palestinians," he said.

Asked whether the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be ready to make any concessions if the U.S. and Israel refused to respond positively to the Palestinian demand for an independent state, Sayeh said: "What matters is not whether we respond to the American wish or not, but what would serve the

best interests of the Palestinian people."

"Through our resolutions, we have informed the U.S. and Israel as well as the international community that we are peace-seekers and want peace based on justice," he said.

The PNC speaker said Israel should be ready to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it is the party to negotiate with. "If Israel accepts this, an international peace conference could be convened with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved, including the PLO," he said. "If this conference decides that we should negotiate or talk with any other party, we will respect the international will."

Sayeh said he shared the optimism of His Majesty King Hussein that such a conference would be held. His Majesty's optimism stems from his political wisdom and his continuous effort to restore the rights of the Palestinian people, he added.

Any further political move in light of Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO and the Zionist state's rejection of an international conference will be decided upon by the PNC, he said.

In reply to a question, Sayeh said the Palestinians living in the occupied

(Continued on page 4)

## 12 more protesters wounded in W. Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 12 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Sunday.

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## LAST-MINUTE NEWS

### UAE to nationalise government jobs

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to replace foreigners employed in ministries with UAE nationals in the next five years, the Dubai-based Al Bayan newspaper reported Sunday. It said the government approved a five-year nationalisation plan starting this year due to growing financial obligations, overstaffing and increasing number of local university graduates.

### Algerian premier holds talks in Libya

ROME (AP) — Algerian Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah travelled to Libya for talks on bilateral relations, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday. The agency said Merbah was heading a delegation at the sixth session of the Algerian-Libyan committee, which opened Saturday. Merbah also held "fraternal" talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, according to an Algiers radio report monitored in London. Libya in the past has urged that the two countries form a political union, but Algeria has rejected the idea. Nonetheless, the countries have increased cooperation in cultural, economic and technical fields in recent years.

### India urges Shihanouk to attend talks

JAKARTA (AP) — India's minister of state for external affairs appealed Sunday for Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Shihanouk not to stay away from Jakarta during next month's informal talks on ways to solve the Kampuchean conflict. K. Natwar Singh told reporters upon his arrival from New Delhi that India could help find a solution to the war between a three-party resistance coalition and Vietnamese troops that entered Kampuchea in 1978. Shihanouk said he would stay away from Jakarta because Kampuchean Premier Hun Sen has rejected his proposal that an international peacekeeping force supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces.

### Nigerian president arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida arrived Sunday on a three-day official visit and was greeted by President Hosni Mubarak, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. This is Babangida's first official visit to Cairo, and his talks with Mubarak are expected to focus on cooperation among African states, MENA said.

### Pakistani foreign minister in Riyadh

RIYADH (R) — The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan held talks Sunday about coordinating support for rebels in Afghanistan where Soviet troops are close to completing their withdrawal. Diplomats said Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Riyadh Sunday and immediately began talks with Prince Saud Al Faisal, his Saudi counterpart.

### Warning over forged Lebanese banknotes

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank has warned the public that forged Lebanese banknotes are in circulation, officials said Sunday. They said Central Bank Governor Edmund Naim reported that notes of 500 and 1,000 Lebanese pound denominations with faint serial numbers and design were seized last week.

### Gorbachev to visit Bonn in June

BONN (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will make a long-awaited visit to West Germany June 12, the newspaper Bild said Sunday. A government spokesman would not confirm the report. He said the visit had always been planned for early summer and the timetable would be finalised during an expected visit to Bonn in March by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is received by cabinet members upon his return from Cairo Sunday after attending meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee (Petra photo).

## Rifai: Jordan, Egypt share identical stand on Palestine issue

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt hold an identical position with regard to the Palestine problem and its developments, and both Amman and Cairo back the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its endeavours to attain a just and peaceful settlement of the problem in all its aspects and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said in Cairo Sunday.

Speaking at the end of the ninth Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings, and following a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the prime minister told reporters Jordan and Egypt support the PLO's drive to convene an international conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent member states.

Rifai said Arab-PLO efforts were now aimed at convening such a conference to reach a lasting settlement, and both Egypt and Jordan would work together to help the Palestinian people regain their national rights in their homeland.

Rifai said that the minutes of the Higher Committee, which he signed along with Egyptian pre-

mier Atef Sedki, cover all scopes of cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in trade, economic, transport, communication, energy, agriculture, education, information and tourist fields.

The ninth meeting, he added, is bound to give further impetus to the joint efforts that were initiated by His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak.

Rifai said that he discussed with Sedki the broadline of a proposed regional Arab economic group and that certain measures were underway to bring the project into being.

The prime minister said Egyptian workers in Jordan were being treated well, and they feel they are in their own country and face no problem.

Agreement has been reached between Jordan and Egypt on amendments to legislation that can help solve problems related to the workers' social security benefits and safeguard their rights, Rifai said.

Mubarak earlier hosted a breakfast in honour of Rifai and the Jordanian delegation and all members of the joint committee were present. Saturday evening Sedki hosted a banquet in honour of the Jordanian delegation.

## Iraq agrees to join committee with Iran

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein Sunday agreed to lift a ban on civilian flights into Iran through Iraqi airspace imposed during the conflict.

The radio did not elaborate. But the Iraqi moves appeared to indicate a new effort to get the stalled peace negotiations moving again.

The talks broke down in Geneva Nov. 11.

Baghdad Radio reported that Hussein reiterated to Eliasson that Iraq rejects any preconditions set by Iran for resuming the Geneva negotiations.

Iran has stressed that before talks resume, Iraq has to unequivocally agree to the complete and immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, including withdrawal of troops to the pre-war border.

Baghdad Radio said Iraq agreed to participate in the joint military committee and lift the flight ban "out of Iraq's keenness for the U.N. envoy's mission to succeed and its readiness to cooperate with him."

Hussein called on Iran to display the same commitment to the U.N. resolution through practical steps and deeds, the radio reported.

Sunday's meeting was also attended by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who held six hours of talks with Eliasson Saturday.





On the 'green line' between east and west Beirut, a Lebanese woman washes vegetables while an army tank stand guard at a crossing point

## Fresh attempts made to free hostages, curb Lebanon violence

BEIRUT (R) — Arab states made fresh efforts Sunday to halt Lebanon's militia wars and solve the political crisis that has pitted civil and military governments against each other for four months.

Amid the high-level diplomacy in Tunis and Damascus, Irish envoy Patrick McCabe began talks with Lebanese leaders in Beirut in an attempt to gain freedom for Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

"I prefer to be quiet at the moment," he told Reuters Sunday. "I don't want any journalists to follow me because it is not helpful for my mission."

McCabe, Ireland's ambassador to Baghdad, was ordered to Lebanon after a flurry of unconfirmed reports that Keenan and British hostage John McCarthy would soon be released.

Keenan, 36, who holds both Irish and British nationality, was kidnapped April 11, 1986 while on his way to work at the American University of Beirut in west Beirut.

Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers worked through the night in Damascus, resuming peace efforts which led to a brief ceasefire between Lebanon's warring Amal and Hizbollah forces four days ago.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa to prepare for a new round of talks Sunday between Amal and Hizbollah.

When Amal leader Nabih Berri emerged from a meeting with Sharaa, he said no final agreement had been reached. Iranian sources also said more negotiations were needed.

Last week's talks resulted in a ceasefire in the battles in Beirut and South Lebanon which erupted Jan. 1, but fighting flared again within three hours and sporadic shooting was reported between the two sides Saturday.

At least 142 people have so far been killed in the four weeks of Amal-Hizbollah battles.

In Tunis, headquarters of the Arab League, a league committee was due to hold an informal session Sunday night to discuss the constitutional crisis in Lebanon which has had two rival governments since September.

The leader of one of the governments, acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, arrived in Tunis Saturday amid tight security to take part in the talks.

His rival, army commander Michel Aoun, was expected to arrive Sunday.

## Amnesty urges world to pressure Iran to stop political executions

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International urged the world Monday to put pressure on Iran to halt a six-month campaign of political executions during which it said more than 1,000 people have died.

The London-based human rights group made its plea in a statement submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission which is scheduled to begin its annual meeting Monday in Geneva.

Amnesty International detailed other abuses it said have persisted in Iran but have been overshadowed by the recent killings, including torture, detention without trial and other "cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments."

"Amnesty International urges the international community to use whatever channels are available to persuade the Iranian government to put an end to the present wave of public executions and to implement and observe judicial and other procedures to safeguard the human rights of its citizens," the statement said.

"Since the end of July 1988, Amnesty International has recorded over 1,000 names of political prisoners who have reportedly been executed," the statement said. "And further reports are still being received."

Amnesty International said that while it had expected a prisoner amnesty for the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic republic in February, its

welcome was "muted because hundreds, if not thousands of prisoners will be killed before the amnesty comes into effect."

Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini has pardoned 4,500 convicts imprisoned in the north-eastern province of Khorasan and plans to start releasing them Tuesday when celebrations begin, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Amnesty International said it had appealed to Iran on behalf of hundreds of prisoners at risk and asked for comment on reported victims, but received no responses.

The organisation expressed concern that it had been unable to enter Iran to discuss the situation with officials, despite statements by Iranian authorities that human rights groups could visit.

The wave of executions apparently was sparked by an incursion into western Iran from Iraq by the National Liberation Army, a group backed by the opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, Amnesty International said.

Many of the victims were from the group, other left-wing opposition parties and groups involved in armed opposition to the government, the statement said.

Many were imprisoned for years before they were shot to death or hanged "and among them there were a large number of prisoners of conscience and

others serving prison terms imposed after unfair trials for their non-violent political activity," the statement said.

It was not clear whether victims were being retried, although there was no evidence they had, said the statement.

Amnesty International repeated assertions made in a report in December that the killings represented the biggest wave of secret political executions since the early 1980s.

The organisation said "while this massive wave of political executions has overshadowed other Amnesty International concerns in Iran in recent months," other violations have persisted.

It said more people connected with opposition groups were being reported detained without charge or trial, young people were being singled out for random searches on the street by Revolutionary Guards and floggings continue to be a widely used punishment.

Amnesty International said it was concerned about a massive anti-drugs crackdown and 21 recorded instances of amputation, usually of the four fingers of the right hand, which it considered "cruel, inhuman or degrading."

Tehran Radio reported Sunday that 22 more drug smugglers were hanged publicly in various Iranian cities in the previous three days, raising the total to 113 in the crackdown launched two weeks ago.

## Arafat writes to Pope on need to resolve Palestinian uprising

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has written to Pope John Paul about the need to resolve the 14-month uprising in Israeli-occupied lands, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said Saturday.

Nimer Hamad, PLO representative in Italy, told a news conference he had delivered Arafat's letter Friday — just over a month after the PLO chairman met the Pope in a 20-minute private audience at the Vatican.

Hamad declined to give details of the letter, saying only that it regarded "the necessity of intensifying efforts (to solve) the confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis over the situation in the occupied territories."

He said it was written in response to Vatican requests to be

kept closely informed of the situation in the Middle East.

Hamad said Arafat had also raised the issue of new rules introduced by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin which allow Israeli soldiers to fire plastic bullets at Palestinians involved in protests.

The ruling has led to record casualties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where 378 Palestinians have died since the uprising began in December 1987.

The Pope told Arafat during their December 23 meeting at the Vatican that Israelis and Palestinians shared "an identical fundamental right to their own homeland in which to live in freedom, dignity and security, in harmony with their neighbours."

The pontiff said he hoped the two sides could "soon see the

start of a real process of understanding and peace."

In New York, Rabbi Meir Kahane, a former Israeli parliamentary deputy who advocates expulsion of Palestinians from Israel and the occupied territories, Saturday urged suppressing the Palestinian uprising by "any means necessary."

"We must allow Israeli soldiers to use their weapons freely against the stone-throwers," Kahane told an audience of about 100 people at a Jewish community centre in Brooklyn.

Kahane, an American rabbi who in 1968 founded the militant Jewish Defence League, immigrated to Israel and served four years in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, before his hardline Kach party was banned last fall.

## Velayati calls for gesture from U.S.

LONDON (AP) — Americans must "change their concept" of Iran and release billions of dollars of seized assets if the United States wants to improve relations, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted as saying.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Observer newspaper, Velayati was quoted as saying he sees no obstacle to resuming relations with Britain, that he does not know the fate of British hostages in Lebanon and that the international community should do more to enforce the Iran-Iraq ceasefire agreement.

"They (Americans) must change their concept of Iran," he was quoted as saying in the interview conducted in Tehran and published Sunday.

"They must accept that times have changed. Then they should show that this change is real... if they want to show their good intentions, they should release

these assets."

The United States froze billions of dollars of Iranian funds on deposit in American banks and impounded Iranian military equipment ordered by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, when 52 Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Iran has in the past raised the assets issue in connection with American hostages in Lebanon. An Iran-U.S. claims tribunal is adjudicating Iran's claims.

Velayati was quoted as saying he saw no obstacles to resuming relations with Britain which were all but severed in 1987. A diplomat recently returned to Tehran to reestablish the embassy there.

However, Velayati expressed displeasure at a recent meeting with Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave which he said focused entirely on the hostages in Lebanon.

## 'Iran used German cover to buy poison gas chemicals'

NEW YORK (R) — Iran stockpiled chemicals used to make poison gas through secret purchases from West German, Greek, U.S. and Singapore companies, the New York Times reported Sunday, quoting U.S. officials and court records.

The illegal purchases began during the last months of the Iran-Iraq war, according to the newspaper, and continued despite the Gulf war ceasefire agreed to last August.

Although U.S. officials said Washington was concerned by Iran's production of poison gas, the administration has been more vocal in its criticism of Libya, which it said has established a chemical warfare plant with the aid of West German companies.

"The Libyan programme got attention because it involved (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi," the Times quoted a senior U.S. official as saying.

Iran's programme has been going on for quite some time and we're trying to slow it down by putting pressure, behind the scenes, on suppliers of chemicals."

Iran's secret purchases were channelled through its Bonn embassy, the report said, and came to light through a U.S. customs investigation of an Iranian diplomat, Seyed Kharim Ali Sobhani, stationed in West Germany.

The shipments in 1987 and 1988 involved 90 tons of thiodiglycol.

## Egypt to raise its flag over Taba

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel Sunday agreed to let Egypt raise its flag over the disputed Taba border area in a symbolic "concession."

Israel acceded to Egypt's request to fly its flag over Taba in an attempt to get talks moving on the last obstacles before the beach strip is handed back, said foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel.

He said Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Bassiouny, was pleased by Israel's response.

The Israel-Egypt talks over Taba ran into trouble last week when Egyptian officials said they would consider Taba to be under Egypt's sovereignty as of Sunday, 60 days after an international arbitration panel's ruling.

The declaration alarmed Israeli officials, who first want to settle such issues as access for Israeli tourists, location of the border line and compensation for Israeli owners of luxury hotel and a holiday resort village in Taba.

The Red Sea beach strip, occupied in the 1967 war, has been a subject of dispute between the two countries since 1982. That's when Israel refused to hand it back to Egypt along with the rest of the Sinai peninsula under the terms of the two countries' 1979 treaty.

In 1986 the two sides agreed to take the dispute to an international arbitration panel in Geneva for a binding ruling. The panel delineated the border up a point on a hill above the shore, putting Taba logically in Egyptian territory.

## PLO says

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as an intermediary between Israel and the PLO.

"I don't know why they need an intermediary," Hussein said speaking to reporters in his home. "What is the difference if Faisal Hussein is a messenger or they have direct contacts?"

Hussein noted in both radio and television interviews that Israelis, even some in government, are more open to the PLO.

"Some of the Israelis in the high levels of the government are going in a new way which I believe is in the right direction."

Hussein said Arabs would not agree to Rabin's peace offer which called for limited Palestinian autonomy but added that he believed the PLO could accept Rabin's plan for free elections in the occupied territories.

"Rabin presents elections as a means to solve the problems in the occupied territories," Hussein said. "We are talking about a homeland."

"If democratic elections under international guidance will give us the opportunity to decide on a Palestinian state, then yes," Hussein said. "But just to elect people to start talking about the future," no, I'm sorry."

## BRITISH EMBASSY ANNUAL NOTICE TO ALL BRITISH NATIONALS LIVING IN JORDAN

???Have you registered with the British Embassy??? If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have been registered for a year or more and have not confirmed your continuing presence in Jordan, please do so by contacting the Consular Section as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club. Telephone 823100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1350 hours.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 4 SLA militiamen wounded in ambush

BEIRUT (R) — Four militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were wounded in a guerrilla ambush Sunday in Israel's self-declared "security zone". SLA sources said. The sources, contacted by telephone from Beirut, said the four militiamen were wounded when their patrol ran into a guerrilla ambush in the Nabi Taher area, just at the edge of the buffer strip. They said the patrol exchanged rocket propelled grenades and machinegun fire with the guerrillas. Earlier this week two SLA militiamen were killed in a land mine blast in the zone.

### Assad to meet EEC foreign ministers

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has agreed to meet European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers in Damascus to discuss the EEC's Middle East peace initiative. Officials said Spanish EEC's Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez telephoned his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa Saturday to request a meeting with the president, who agreed to talks next month. Fernandez Ordonez expressed interest in Syria's role in the region and hoped the so-called "troika" of the foreign ministers of Spain, France and Greece would meet Assad Feb. 12, an official source said.

### Iran hangs 7 more drug traffickers

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday it had hanged seven more drug traffickers over the last two days, bringing to 81 the number executed in a crackdown which has terrorised narcotics dealers and sent drug prices soaring. The Iranian News Agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the seven were hanged in the northeastern town of Torbat-e Heydariyeh. "The intensity of the campaign has terrorised the drug business, forcing up the price of heroin by between 1,350 and 1,700 per cent in some regions," IRNA reported. It quoted the daily newspaper Ettelaat as saying more traffickers would go to the gallows in coming days.

### SPLA announces intensified offensive

NAIROBI (R) — The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) will step up its offensive to seize more strategic towns held by government troops in southern Sudan, its radio station announced in a broadcast monitored in Nairobi. The radio station quoted SPLA leader John Garang as saying: "SPLA is stronger... we shall step up our offensive against government troops. Khartoum will soon be suddenly awakened by yet another major SPLA victory. The war will continue until victory is achieved in Sudan."

### UAE army joins battle against locusts

ABU DHABI (R) — Soldiers have joined the fight against armies of locusts that have penetrated up to 30 kilometres into the United Arab Emirates (UAE). A UAE Agriculture Ministry official said Sunday the swarms near the border with Qatar were the biggest to hit the country in 30 years. He said more locusts were expected to reach the UAE from Saudi Arabia which has been infested by locusts swarming across the Red Sea from Africa during the past two months.

### Moroccan minister to visit Syria

RABAT (R) — Morocco said Sunday that Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali would visit Syria following a resumption of diplomatic ties three weeks ago. Filali will visit Damascus Feb. 10 and 11 at the invitation of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, the Information Ministry said in a statement. Syria cut ties in July 1984 in protest at talks held between King Hassan and then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Relations were restored on Jan. 9 this year after Saudi Arabian mediation.

## INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS

The Arab Company for Veterinary Drug Industries and their Appliances "Aravet" invites International Contractors to prequalify for the construction, supplying and erection of Aravet plant at Omm Al Amman - Amman / The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The plant is a complete industrial complex including various production lines of common pharmaceutical forms (Water soluble powder, Feed premix, Boli, Medicated oral solution, Injectable solution, Ointments, Aerosol, Insecticides and Disinfectant).

Contractors with international experience, good reputation and financial status, are invited to participate in the above mentioned prequalification.

Questionnaire documents could be obtained from Aravet offices at the following full address:-



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The complete registration documents should be delivered in 3 copies along with all required documentation to Aravet offices not later than 15.00 hrs on March 1st, 1989.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b>	19:45 Varieties 20:30 New in Arabic 20:30 Allo Allo 21:00 So you want to stop smoking 21:10 Jack and Mike 21:40 News in English 22:20 Jewel in the Crown	<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	05:07 Fair 16:27 (Sunrise) Dufra 17:49 Dhuhr 14:46 'Asr 17:11 Maghreb 18:30 'Isha	<b>CHURCHES</b>	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637875. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 673440. Abd el Sala Church Tel. 661756. Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Ammann International Church Tel. 685326. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295. Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821294.	<b>WEATHER</b>	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.		Another rise in temperature will occur while some clouds appear on medium and high altitudes. Winds will be considerably moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	Min./max. temp. 17/12 5/18 -3/13 -3/18 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent. Aqaba 30 per cent.	<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	AMMAN: Dr. Kayed Khalafleh 793522 Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056 Dr. Tasa Haddad 897007 Dr. Mohammad Azzam 818911 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdous pharmacy 778336 Al Azeema pharmacy 637055 Nidroukh pharmacy 626762 Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Amman 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 IBRID: Dr. Jamal Bani Hani (-) (-) Dr. Sazana's pharmacy (-) (-) ZARQA: Abdulla Haddad (-) (-) Khalifah pharmacy 983417	<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 62209093 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 66639091 Public Security Department 664416 656022 / 685111 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage	<b>HOSPITALS</b>	AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khafid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816 Orange Maternity, J. Amn. 664244 Jabal Amman Maternity 623662 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714	Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints 877111 Telephone Information 12 Directory assistance 12 Overseas calls 17 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdulla Haddad's repairs 775112 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-33200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport. 08-32000	Shmeisani Hospital 669131 Al-Musheir Hospital 845845 Al-Musheir Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 66612757 Al-Ahl, Abdali 6641646 Al-Husseini, Al-Muhajreen 7710173 Al-Bastiri, J. Amman 7751126 Army, Marks 89161715 Queen Alia Hospital 60224050 Shmeisani Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983223 Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225 Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	Bazana 350 / 300 Basma (Mukammarr) 300 / 250 Basma 600 / 500 Broad beach 900 / 800 Cabbage 160 / 100 Carrots 230 / 180 Cauliflower 230 / 180 Cucumbers 460 / 400 Dates 660 / 580 Eggplant 160 / 125 Garlic 280 / 200 Grapes 170 / 120 Lemon 220 / 160 Lettuce (per one) 120 / 80 Marrow (large) 350 / 300 Marrow (small) 300 / 300 Orange (French) 350 / 300 Orange (Spanish) 400 / 340 Orange (local) 250 / 200 Onion (green) 220 / 160 Onion (dry) 220 / 160 Pepper (hot) 560 / 480 Pepper (sweet) 460 / 400 Potato 260 / 200 Spinach 150 / 100 Mandarin 280 / 220
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## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW:** Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the first seminar on international humanitarian law will be held at the Jordan Electricity Authority premises during the period Feb. 11-13, to be preceded by a preparatory meeting for participants next Thursday. (Al Dustour)

**CHARITABLE MARKET IN AQABA:** The administrative committee of the Ma'an branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Sunday decided to set up a charitable market in Aqaba which will provide services to the citizens during the fasting month of Ramadan and in kind contributions to the needy families.

**SCHOOLS IN KOURA DISTRICT:** Work is currently under way on the construction of three schools in Koura district at a total cost of JD 1 million. Apart from these projects the Ministry of Education has offered a JD 145,000 tender for the construction of 14 classrooms and other school facilities in Um Al Lajin village in Koura district. (Petra)

**UNIVERSITY TEAM LEAVES FOR CAIRO:** A four man delegation from the University of Jordan Sunday left for Cairo to take part in a five-day symposium on teaching political sciences at the Arab universities, due to be held there Monday. (Petra)

**TARAWNEH MEETS AUSTRALIAN ENVOY:** Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh Sunday discussed with the Australian Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin means of developing bilateral relations. (Petra)

**SEWERAGE WORKS IN ZARQA:** Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh Sunday inspected progress of sewerage works in Ghuweirah, the commercial market and Al Hussein areas, and discussed with citizens in these areas the problems they are currently facing as a result of the excavation works and the proposed solutions. (Petra)

**MANSOURA VILLAGE COUNCIL:** Aminah Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Sunday announced the names of the Mansoura village council, in Naqur sub-district, headed by Abdullah Mohammad Bakkar. (Petra)

**BUSEIRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL:** Buseira sub-district governor in Tafleh Governorate Sunday announced the names of the newly elected 9 member municipal council, headed by Rashid Al Rafoof. (Petra)

**PRIVATISATION OF PTC, TCC AND RJ:** Final arrangements for the privatisation of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC), the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the Royal Jordanian (RJ) are currently being made by the parties concerned. The Ministry of Transport has submitted to the Prime Ministry the financial regulations, supply and staff rules and regulations for the proposed three public shareholding companies for approval, in preparation for privatising these corporations in a few months time. (Petra)

## Committee reviews health awareness programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Sunday chaired a meeting for the ministry's Health Awareness Committee to review health awareness programmes for the public.

A statement following the meeting said that the committee discussed launching a campaign to spread awareness among the public on health protection and the prevention of common diseases.

Various sectors of the Jordanian public will be required to take part in the campaign, the statement said.

It said that the campaign will focus attention on the importance of early diagnosis of diseases, the



Zuhair Malhas

need to make early discovery of blood pressure, take measures against obesity and to fight drug addiction as well as smoking.

The committee groups representatives of various concerned government departments and private organisations, as well as professional associations and women's unions.

## 19 American journalists to visit Jordan on Feb. 9

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A team of 19 journalists from the U.S. National Newspaper Association (NNA) is due here on Feb. 9 for a six-day visit to Jordan during which they will meet with Jordanian government officials and tour a number of institutions.

An announcement here said that the team, which represents 5,000 daily and weekly newspaper

ers throughout the United States, will be visiting Jordan in the course of a tour of Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and Egypt in addition to Jordan.

The announcement said that the Ministry of Information has prepared a programme for the team's tour and meetings with officials as well as public figures.

## Jordanian businessmen leave for Cairo talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing Jordanian businessmen left for Cairo Sunday to take part in the fourth meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council which will start in the city of Luxor Monday.

The three-day meeting will discuss matters related to the role of the private sectors in both countries towards developing the national economy and investment in joint projects.

Also to be discussed is the question of widening the scope of cooperation in tourism in the light of previous agreements, means of supporting the land-sea route that links Jordan, Iraq and Egypt and schemes to be carried out by the Jordanian-Egyptian

Holding Company. The holding company has made plans to carry out the lean meat and fodder project in Egypt with a 50-million Egyptian pound capital.

The delegation is led by Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, and is accompanied by 24 officials from commercial, banking and industrial institutions in the Kingdom.

On the eve of his visit to Egypt, Abu Hassan said that the meeting aims to encourage investments in both countries and the implementation of joint projects. He said a total of 80 delegates from both sides will attend the meeting.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday chairs a meeting with the executive committee of the Jordanian Boy Scout and Girl Guide Association. Also present is the Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat (Petra photo)

## Jordan to invite Arab scouts for Great Arab Revolt camp in June

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday chaired a meeting with the executive committee of the Jordanian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association to discuss a number of matters related to the Jordanian Scout Movement.

The meeting decided to extend invitations to boy scout organisations in Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq,

Oman and North Yemen to take part in the Great Arab Revolt's Scout Camp which will be organised by the Ministry of Youth in Jordan during June 1989.

A statement was released after the meeting saying that the committee decided to host a meeting by the Islamic Scouts Conference to be held here in August, and to take part in scouts meetings to be

held in Egypt and Qatar.

The statement said that the committee decided to call the association's general assembly for a meeting on Feb. 27 to elect scout and girl guide members to take up membership in the association's board of directors.

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat attended the meeting.

## Higher council plans to create 'teachers' training' university

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) plans to create a university to turn out qualified teachers for Jordanian schools, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily Sunday.

The paper said that the projected university, which will be created in cooperation with Jordanian universities, the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, will be solely devoted to train teachers for local schools in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first National Educational Conference held in Amman in 1987.

The report said that a special team of specialists is now involved in working out broadlines of a plan for the projected university.

Students for the "teachers' training" university, the report said, will be selected from Tawjihi graduates who have not worked as teachers or as employees in any organisation.

The projected university, together with the private university, which will be called the University of Applied Sciences, as well as the four existing universities will be sufficient for the country's needs and can cope with the growing student demand for higher education, the report said.

Earlier reports said that preparations were underway for opening the private university which will have a capital of JD 11.1 million. At present teachers training is being undertaken by the Ministry of Education and the

Ministry of Higher Education which last year created a special college for advanced training for teachers.

The Ministry of Education said that the college is now providing high-level training to 300 teachers in Arabic, English, Mathematics and religious education who, upon completing their courses will be absorbed by the Ministry of Education's schools.

The report in Sawt Al Shaab did not give details about the cost of the new project and its location.



Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Sunday receives Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten

## Italian specialists to take part in restoration works

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten Sunday called at Yarmouk University and discussed with its president, Mohammad Hamdan, cooperation between Italian and Jordanian universities.

A university statement quoted the ambassador as saying Italy was giving due attention to assistance to Jordan in view of the Kingdom's achievements, especially in the field of education, over the past few years.

It said that the ambassador discussed with Hamdan the prospect of providing Yarmouk Uni-

versity with Italian expertise and consultants, as well as scholarships in computer science, fine arts and physical education.

The two sides agreed on dispatching Italian specialists and archaeologists to take part in the restoration of historical sites and help piece together manuscripts, in cooperation with the Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The ambassador heard from Hamdan a briefing on the university's development and its programme, and later visited the Museum of Jordanian Heritage and inspected its contents.

## Health committees orient public on common diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report issued by the Health Ministry's Primary Health Care Department reveals that health committees around the country last year carried out wide scale missions to orient the public on the dangers of common diseases and means of protection from them.

A statement by the department Saturday said that 89 health committees were involved in the project which was carried out in Irbid, Madaba, Karak, the Jordan Valley, Jerash, Mafrqa, Ramtha, Aqaba and Koura districts.

Campaigns launched by these committees, the statement noted, focused on causes of diarrhoea and dehydration and means of

dealing with them, means of self protection against common diseases, as well as birth spacing, food poisoning, environmental health and nutrition.

According to the statement, the committee's missions also included advice on keeping and storing potable water, disposing of garbage and other refuse, and health instructions to Muslim pilgrims to protect themselves from meningitis.

The statement said that the department took part in the World Health Organisation-sponsored anti-smoking campaign in April last year, and organised a seminar to orient the public on the dangers of smoking.

## Regional group to boost Arab economic integration — Tabbaa

CAIRO (Petra) — The formation of a regional economic bloc, grouping Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen is bound to boost the economic integration process within the Arab World, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa said in a statement here Sunday.



Hamdi Tabbaa

Tabbaa, who took part in the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting which discussed the formation of the economic bloc, said that the idea of the establishment of such a group came from His Majesty King Hussein who has been advocating the cause of building up a strong pan-Arab economic entity.

The general outlines of the bloc are now emerging, and once the basic statutes have been laid down, the door will be open for other Arab states to join, the minister noted.

He said that the idea of grouping Arab countries was to boost cooperation among Arab states

— allowing Arab products to flow easily from one state to another. "Products by any member of the group will be given priority in the markets of the others. All four countries will adopt and abide by a set of regulations concerning industry and will undertake other measures designed to achieve full integration."

The minister said that the Arab group will benefit from the experiments of the European Community, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab common market, which was established 30 years ago, but was not successful due to mounting difficulties.

"The projected Arab group

will maintain cooperation with major world economic groups to pave the way for the creation of the regional group, he said. "Sub-committees will be set up to study economic issues and submit recommendations on priorities."

## Ministry announces results of mid-year Tawjihi exams

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Sunday announced the results of the mid-year examinations taken by Tawjihi students in Jordan last month.

It said the results, distributed to schools Sunday morning, were for 58,618 students who took the examinations in the scientific, literary, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams.

The Ministry of Education's director of examinations said that remarks made by students and supervisors of the examinations were all taken into account while marking the papers but, he said, that all questions were taken from the school textbooks.

He added that the results of the physics examination were far better than those of the first term in the previous school year while the geography examination results

were nearly similar to those of the past year.

The examination director pointed out that the Ministry of Education did not raise the general average or that of any subject taken by the students.

The ministry will organise another examination for the Tawjihi students by late May this year, before announcing the final results at least one month later.

## NHF to launch breastfeeding campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will launch an information campaign in the second half of the coming month to orient the public on the benefits of breastfeeding.

To prepare for the campaign, a general meeting for representatives of the information and press media attended a meeting at the NHF headquarters under the chairmanship of the foundation's

Director General In'am Al Mufti who spoke in detail on the importance of the campaign for the Jordanian public and mothers and children in particular.

She said that the information media will be expected to promote the idea of breastfeeding through their different services to help the NHF and the local hospitals and health centres in this mission.

The campaign which will be carried out under the patronage of

Her Majesty Queen Noor, is being organised by the NHF's health communication project in cooperation with the Health Ministry and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), according to a report in Al Dustour daily Sunday.

Mrs. Mufti spoke in general about the foundation's other projects to promote the status and creative abilities of children.






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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- \* A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- \* An art exhibition by artist Miss Eder at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- \* A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

### SYMPOSIUM

- \* A symposium organised by the University of Jordan Sociology Department on "Environmental pollution in Jordan" at Abdul Hamid Shomran Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre — 11:00 a.m.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## Historic revelation

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's historic revelation to Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday, that the talks between Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen on the formation of a common economic market have so progressed as to reach the stage of legal drafting, could not have come at a more opportune time. The initial building blocs for this nucleus Arab common market have in fact been constructed in Cairo Saturday when the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, co-chaired by prime ministers Zaid Rifai and Atef Sedki, reached momentous and far-reaching decisions aiming for substantive economic integration between Egypt and Jordan. It will be recalled that the joint committee has adopted a series of meaningful and effective resolutions ranging from raising the bilateral annual trade volume between the two countries to \$350 million to linking power grids between them. From the Jordanian and Egyptian peoples' direct point of view, the decision to upgrading industrial cooperation, tourism and even the level of economic planning coordination between the two countries would come as a great relief to them. Moreover, the two peoples would be pleased to know that henceforth travel procedures between the two countries would become civil and on par with that existing between the EEC countries. The functional ease of crossing borders between countries has always been some sort of barometer for the kind and extent of bilateral relations between them. Jordanians and Egyptians, therefore, have every reason to celebrate all these positive measures incorporated in the resolutions of the just-concluded ninth meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo. It is of course the earnest hope of all the citizens of the two countries that other Arab countries would soon follow suit on the giant steps taken by Egypt and Jordan, beginning with Iraq and North Yemen, and concluding with the other Arab countries which still remain outside the orbits of other sub-regional Arab economic common markets that were made or are in the making.

As His Majesty King Hussein has confirmed to Al Ra'i newspaper in Amman Saturday, the Arab World will very soon hear about the birth of an economic common market connecting and integrating the economies of North Yemen, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. The best news of all will be the invitation by these four states to other Arab states to join the newly created Arab bandwagon in order to make this whole process complete. Meanwhile, the Arab leaders of the four countries, who took the natural and daring national resolutions to begin the process of complete economic integration of their respective countries, deserve the appreciation and support of the whole Arab Nation.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

His Majesty King Hussein's statements to Al Ra'i daily published Sunday constitute the theme of the paper's editorial. The paper points to two specific points referred to by the King in his statements: Jordan's ability to overcome obstacles in the way of stimulating the economy and serious efforts on the part of Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt to form a regional economic bloc. But it also refers to the King's emphasis on the need to achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, so that the economies of its countries and the stability of the region could be guaranteed. The paper echoed King Hussein's call for the convening of an international conference which, it said, serves as the most practical and feasible forum to reach a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Building a pan-Arab economy and ensuring peace in the region, the paper said, can only come about in an atmosphere of peace and cooperation among the countries of the region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Sunday on the abortive negotiations over Tabá and Israel's intransigence, and its rejection of a resolution by a panel of international arbitrators over the issue. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the panel has ruled that the Tabá enclave should return to Egypt by Jan. 29, 1989, but the Israelis persist that the enclave belongs to Israel, the military power which had been occupying the zone over the past 21 years. Israel which keeps bragging about its intention to reach a settlement with the Arabs over the occupied territories is clearly obstructing the path of any settlement through its intransigent attitude and its rejection of the will of the international community, the writer notes. Furthermore, and in a show of its adherence to its old-negatives, Israel is now asking Egypt for a lease of the Tabá enclave so that it can benefit from the installations it built and for which Egypt had offered to pay compensation. The writer says that in view of this situation it is hard to believe that Israel has any intention at all to withdraw from any part of the occupied lands of Palestine.

At Dstour daily dwell Sunday on the on-going meetings in Cairo by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries. The paper said that the meeting is being held in an atmosphere of optimism and new hopes in the future, and against a background of determination on the part of Amman and Cairo to forge ahead with plans to group the Arab countries in the orient in a strong economic bloc. The paper said that the two countries are coordinating their steps to serve the interests of the whole Arab Nation and to lay the ground for greater Arab cooperation and coordination. The current meeting, he said, is bound to pave the way for a real and lasting integration among the Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also discussed the higher committee meeting in Cairo and said that it has crowned the ninth meeting with new decisions for greater measures of integration and new spheres of cooperation in trade, industry, energy, higher education, tourism and information. The paper said that Jordan, which also maintains very close cooperation in these fields with North Yemen and Egypt, is leading the way towards real integration among Arab countries to add more strength to the Arab nation's economy.

## How private are 'private' schools?

By Waleed Sadi

ALTHOUGH the phenomenon of privatisation has gained currency and momentum in Jordan, our private schools are anything but private, in the full meaning and sense of the word, and are left with very little say in their curricula, books and scholastic objectives when seen in the light of the strict controls exercised by the government bureaucracy.

With the exception perhaps of one or two foreign private schools, even the duration and break-up of scholastic years of our so-called private schools are controlled and prescribed by the government, to the extent that the institutions' operating licenses are subject to annual reviews by the authorities. The degree of regulations covering "private" schools in Jordan has burgeoned so that it raises questions on how we have allowed the sense and meaning of privatisation to be changed so much.

Taking for granted that privatisation is a basically healthy pursuit and that we in Jordan as a people and country have opted for it, the question that comes up is: Why can't we allow our private schools to function in a way that is free from state bureaucracy and control, that, in the final analysis, turns them into government-run institutions? Imagine, if you will, that every time a company or organisation is privatised in Jordan, the authorities would continue to exercise control over it with iron-clad rules that could smother its spirit.

Is it not the rationale behind privatisation to free institutions and organisations from paralysing bureaucracy? What could then be the reason d'être behind the concept of privatisation of schools if their scope and dimension are reduced to the mere amount of tuition?

No doubt, most academicians in our country would agree that the excellence and performance of our private institutions of

learning has been affected by government controls. And it so happens that the private sector in the field of education can provide better quality of teaching and curricula and offer superior scholastic know-how than the state sector. It is indeed better placed to pass judgments on scholastic matters, including duration of schools terms, than the officialdom. It is a foregone conclusion that there is yet to be a country where the state educational apparatus is able to offer higher quality education than private institutions. Why then have we in Jordan, of all countries, not moved to alleviate the level and degree of official control and interference with our private centres of education?

The foreign private schools in Amman are the object of envy of every other private school in Jordan because they are the only true private school in the Kingdom in the sense that they determine their own scholastic course and methodology of imparting knowledge to students. It does not take much imagination to see that a reduction in its tuition fees and an upgrading of their treatment of religion and the Arabic language will herald a situation where many parents in Jordan would opt to take advantage of these well-rounded centres of primary and secondary education. Suffice to note that such truly private schools teach and promote the intellectual process and instill the concept of critical analysis in the youngest of the young rather than commemorating memorisation and regimental thinking right from the word go.

Let the message be misunderstood, this is not to suggest that private endeavours in education be permitted to function in a lawless environment. Of course, there should be laws governing private schools as in the case with every other sphere of private sector activities. But, it is the degree and extent of such control

and supervision that makes a marked difference between the net products of private schools and government-run schools.

The basic trouble in the question ensues from the lack of shared responsibilities between the private sector in education and the Ministry of Education in the operations of private schools. If we have had a joint council of education composed of representatives from the government and private schools entrusted with the task of drawing up the necessary recommendations for the functions of our private schools, many of the existing problems would have not reared their heads in the first place. Since no-one can claim a monopoly on what constitutes a sound educational system, it would be in order for us in Jordan to start thinking in terms of establishing such a panel and mandating it with the responsibility of drawing up new guidelines for our private schools in a way that serves the goals and interests of both sides. I suspect that many Jordanians who send their children to private schools and all the leadership of our private schools would want more breathing space before coming with the necessary alternatives and choices about their educational philosophies.

If the extent of government controls over private schools is linked to the objective of preserving and protecting the Tawjihi examinations, we in Jordan are open-minded enough to realise and accept that the Tawjihi objective is not so sacrosanct that it cannot be scrutinised and amended to suit modern educational methods and aspirations. Some private schools in Jordan are already calling the Tawjihi archaic and unsuited to modern needs. Be that as it may, there is still enough room to manoeuvre within the existing Tawjihi framework to accommodate its objectives and requirements with greater freedom in running our private schools.

## Intifada changes perception about Arab cause

By Faiza S. Ambah

Dr. Emile Nakhleh has been a professor of political science at Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland, for over twenty years now and chairman of the Department of History and Political Science since 1975. He helped found the Institute of International Studies of which he has been director ever since its inception in 1981. An expert on the Middle East, he has lectured extensively and written many books and articles on the region. The following are major excerpts from an interview with Dr. Nakhleh published recently by the Jeddah-based Arab News.

Q. Dr. Emile Nakhleh, you are an Arab-American.

A. That's right. I was born in Palestine and I have been in the United States for about 30 years now.

Q. In the summer of 1987, you did a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. How unencumbered was your access to information; how open were the Israelis with you, knowing that you are of Arabic origin?

A. I spent the summer at the Truman Institute, a research centre at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and so I lived in Jerusalem but did my field work; interviewing Palestinian leaders and so forth, in the West Bank and Gaza.

It was a fascinating summer because the first time I had ever been to the West Bank and Gaza was during the summer of 1977, when I was invited to teach two courses at Bir Zeit University; and now I was back ten years later.

The purpose of my research was to study the occupation twenty years after its inception. The result of which were two articles, "The West Bank and Gaza: Twenty Years Later" in the Middle East Journal and "Reflections on the Uprising of Stones" in Middle East Insight. There were tremendous changes, most important of which was this concept of steadfastness, or "sumud", among the Palestinians; it became more indigenous, less endowed, with increased importance given to staying on the land, and more determination, in spite of their weakness militarily, to face down the occupation.

Q. You were in the occupied territories in the summer of 1987, about six months before the beginning of the uprising. Could you feel it coming; were there any indications?

A. I predicted the situation in Gaza in the article I wrote for the Middle East Journal. I felt, when I left in early fall, that Gaza was ready to explode at any moment, but I misjudged the speed with which the West Bank would respond.

I was in Gaza and the situation there was abhorrent. I could not believe the misery I saw. I was amazed that it had not exploded as yet. The overcrowdedness in the camps, the high unemployment, the frustration among the youths, and the tremendous viciousness of the occupation were becoming more and more intolerable. The occupation was much more physically present, much more vicious in Gaza than in the West Bank.

Q. The United States had refused to open a dialogue with the PLO unless they renounced terrorism. What does it define as terrorism?

A. This is a \$64,000 question. As far as the United States position with the PLO is concerned, originally there were only two conditions set by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in 1975. The first R was recognition of U.N. Resolution 242. The second R was recognition of the state of Israel. Now the third R, renunciation of terrorism, came later. When terrorist operations were being conducted outside of Israel, and against civilians, for example the hijacking of the Achille Lauro, this made a nega-

tive impact on the American psyche. Because many times, American civilians were the target, it turned into a political issue.

Q. Doesn't what the Israelis are now doing to the Palestinians count as terrorism?

A. Of course it does. People in America, after Mr. Arafat renounced terrorism, have come to accept the distinction between terrorism and opposition to the occupation. Israel has tried to convince the United States, since Arafat's statement in Geneva, that the intifada is a continuation of terrorism, but there have been a number of statements from the State Department to the effect that they see a difference between terrorism and the intifada. The intifada is a resistance initiative that does not fall under the rubric of terrorism that Washington had wanted Arafat to renounce.

Q. Why don't they ask Israel to renounce the terrorism it's carrying out against the Palestinians?

A. Well they should. The United States is trying, at least in its statements, to get the peace process going so that the occupation could end. Since the intifada started, official statements out of Washington have indicated that the Israeli policy in the occupied territories is not acceptable. But there is a difference between these statements and actual policies.

On the positive side what has happened is that the intifada has had a tremendous impact on American public opinion.

Q. You said that the intifada has made a big difference. Could you give us an example.

A. For the first time since the creation of Israel, just two months ago, a public opinion poll in the United States showed that over 40 per cent of those interviewed, indicated that the United States should talk to the PLO and should settle the Palestinian issue. When Mr. Reagan authorised, through Mr. Shultz, his Tunisian ambassador to talk to the PLO, his decision got support in the country.

Q. You have lectured on the role of public opinion in the making of foreign policy. Do you think that had something to do with his decision to talk to Arafat?

A. No, but he did read this change in public opinion. To a large extent, this change primarily occurred because of the intifada. Many, many Americans, even though they could not make Israel change its policy, felt disgusted with what they saw on television. There was daily coverage of the brutalities happening in the West Bank and Gaza. The coverage decreased a little during the elections but then it picked up in November for several reasons; in anticipation of the declaration of the State of Palestine, and when Arafat was denied an entry visa into the United States. American news agencies were everywhere on the West Bank. Whenever you turn on the news you find an item about this issue.

Q. Has there been a big enough change in public opinion to translate into a shift in foreign policy? What is needed to make this happen?

A. I think so. I tend to be a bit more optimistic about American

foreign policy under Bush and the incoming administration for several reasons. First of all there has been a definite change in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, there is less tension between the two countries. I think that this is a very important factor. There has been a genuine relaxation in superpower politics. How does this relaxation translate into actual foreign policy? It has reflected a genuine desire on the part of the two superpowers to settle regional conflicts and to end them peacefully. We have seen that with the Iran-Iraq war. As a result of their agreement, they hammered out word by word, approved, and passed U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

The second very important reality is the establishing of contact between the U.S. and the PLO. It is unfortunate that it took so long. When Henry Kissinger put the stipulations 13 years ago, it was the price he felt he had to pay to get Israel to sign the Sinai I, Sinai II and Golan I agreements with Egypt and Syria.

Q. What about the rapprochement between the Soviet Union and Israel?

A. The Soviet Union has taken a more realistic attitude toward the world. The Soviet Union was lobbying heavily, prior to the declaration of a Palestinian state, for the inclusion in the declaration, of U.N. Resolution 242 and the recognition of Israel. The Soviet Union is beginning to act as a state rather than as an embodiment of an ideology.

Q. In one of your articles you mention the "perennial tension between the executive and legislative branches (of the American govt.) regarding the chartering and implementation of foreign policy," and how difficult Congress makes it for the president to pursue any Middle East policy, "that is perceived by Congress, rightly or wrongly, to be injurious to the interests of Israel." Why is this so?

A. The tension is on two levels. One is the perennial tension under the Constitution, what I would call tension between Article 1 and Article 2.

Then there is the fact that the president tends to see foreign policy from a macro perspective; that is, with the interests of the United States as one complete picture. Because the president represents the country, his job, his constitutional responsibility, is to view American foreign policy from a macro perspective whereas Congress, especially the House of Representatives, focuses on the districts that those congressmen and congresswomen represent. The same thing is true of the senators; they concentrate on their state. In a sense, with all due respect to Congress, it is more parochial and more micro-focused.

Plus, most lobbying is carried out at Congress level, and not just lobbying on behalf of Israel. Indeed, in the last thirty years we have seen very strong lobbying on behalf of Formosa, so much so that for 20 years the United States considered Formosa as the government of China.

The lobbying on behalf of Israel has been very strong for many reasons: the cultural connection, the religious connection and the Western connection. By comparison, the Arab lobby is very weak. There were certain cases when Arab countries wanted certain weapons, the F-15s or AWACs for example, where they went to Washington, lobbied very effectively, and they got the vote and the weapons. Successful as they might have been, these activities were a one-shot affair and not a continuous

process. Once they got the vote they just packed up and left town.

Q. I heard it said that one of the reasons that the Americans identify with Israel is that what they did to the American Indians is similar to what the Israelis are now trying to do to the Palestinians.

A. I don't really see the casualty there. What I do see is Israel and the Jewish community continuously helping us not to forget what happened to the Jews under holocaust, and I see the West in general still suffers from that episode.

Q. But the West is letting it happen again in a way, only this time by Israel to the Palestinians.

A. Yes, but in a sense what's happening is presented in a smaller context. One reason that the West and the Jews are so close is that the Jewish community in the United States has always been involved in social and philanthropic causes. Many Americans and Europeans are familiar with the Jews because of the many Jews who are involved in social causes, who have participated in society who contributed to the arts, to science, to the theatre, to education and to liberal causes. You find that a lot of universities in the United States have received big donations from Jewish philanthropists. Whereas they are not familiar with the Arab World or with Islam in that way.

That brings me to another, very important connection, which is the religious connection. When Christians read the New Testa-

## Jordan, Egypt to boost cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

ment, they view it in the context of the Old Testament so it's very easy for a Christian to understand Judaism because it's just the other side of the Bible. It's the Old Testament feeding into the New Testament. When you have a fundamentalist Christian reading the Bible today, to that fundamentalist, Israel of today is the same as Israel of God. Not everyone believes this, but nonetheless it is a real connection.

All in all, Jewishness, and the experiences of the Jewish people, are more familiar to Western audiences. When you talk about the foundations of Western civilisation, and you try to identify its underpinnings, you would say they are Judeo-Christian heritage and Greco-Roman law. Even though Islam contributed significantly to Western civilisation in the Middle Ages and these tremendous contributions are documented and studied, they are known mostly in the academic sphere. In our own university, a course in Islamic civilisation is one of the core curriculum courses that a student can take to fulfill his or her requirements. This though is on the academic level and not at the level of the average American.

Q. In the American universities, is there usually a pronounced bias against the Arab Nation, in classes of international relations and the like?

A. There might be isolated occurrences but in general that's not the case. When you talk about the pro-Arab lobby in the

means of promoting tourism there. They will help each other to improve tourist services, facilitate visitors entry into either country, provide different means of transport for tourists, specially those visiting the southern regions and help each other in training personnel in hotel management.

Concerned authorities will open the way for imports of pharmaceutical products manufactured in either country and will exchange expertise in drug industry and help laws and regulations that govern drug production.

Jordan will employ Egyptian nurses and midwives during 1989.

The ministers of labour will hold a meeting as soon as possible to con-

clude an agreement on organising the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan. The directors of the social security corporations will also meet to work out agreements that would deal with issues pertaining to social security benefits for workers.

Consular offices in the two countries will conduct studies on providing better care and services for the subjects of either country. Jordan and Egypt will study the possibility of helping each other in catering for Egyptian and Jordanian nationals in foreign countries.

The two sides agreed to convene the 10th meeting of the committee in Amman during July 1989.

Rifai and the Jordanian delegation returned to Amman Sunday evening.

## Sayeh praises ties as unique

(Continued from page 1)

territories worked very closely with the PLO leadership. The PLO will not do anything that they do not agree to and they do not embark on any action without PLO approval," he said.

Sayeh said the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, had a very important role to play in any Palestinian move. "Hamas seeks to liberate the whole of Palestine since it is the natural right of the Palestinians," he said. "But it is not true that Hamas has been issuing communiqués contradicting PLO positions. Hamas advocates mobilisation of all efforts to end the occupation."

The envisaged Palestinian state will be established on democratic bases and the opinion of the majority will be respected, he added.

Sayeh said the issue of the borders of the Palestinian state could not be discussed "unless such boundaries are based on the actual recognition of our state and people and our right to exist."

"When Israel was established, it did not respect or specify its borders, and so far it wants the whole of Palestine," Sayeh said. "So we also want the borders of Palestine as our borders." However, he added, any talk of borders was premature since the issue requires an international resolution.

Sayeh said the European countries had an important role to play in the Middle East peace process and noted that the Spanish foreign minister, in his capacity as chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC) Council of Ministers, had asked the Israeli government to respond posi-

tively to the latest developments in the Palestine question

Sayeh said a PLO delegation was expected to visit Syria soon to prepare a visit to Damascus by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who will meet the PLO Executive Committee, which has stressed that we cannot do without Syria."

Sayeh said it was high time an Arab summit was convened to formulate a pan-Arab stand on the latest developments and events in the region.

Commenting on a recent call by U.S. President George Bush for a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, Sayeh said: "What Bush said was not precise, because the term 'confederation' implies the existence of two states and Palestine is thus far not an independent state on the ground."

"A confederation with Jordan is not at all a controversial issue and we have repeatedly stressed that we want a confederation with Jordan," he added.

In reply to a question on reported American conditions for the PLO to play its role in peace negotiations, Sayeh said: "The PLO has taken an irrevocable decision that the uprising (in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip) will not end until it achieves its objectives... It is the expression of an oppressed people who are under occupation."

Arafat's recent meetings with Jewish delegations and leaders were in conformity with PNC resolutions and such contacts are useful in bringing about recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Sayeh said.



# Features



## Abraham's seed

**Promises, Heritage and Peace**  
By Sami K. Hamarneh  
International Graphics Brentwood, Maryland 1986

By Marjorie Shabib

IN Promises, Heritage and Peace or "the true children of Abraham according to God's promises" Dr. Sami K. Hamarneh goes on a crusade to save misguided souls around the world. The distinguished Jordanian-American professor of the history of medical sciences takes his readers through 114 pages of Biblical references and explanations of Bible history. The author feels it is necessary to explain God's "promises" in part because "too many authors have been unaware of the importance of the geography, customs, dates and history of Biblical times and places."

In his introduction the author reveals that he is "the kind of person who is responsive to

### BOOK REVIEW

God's leading, ready to help and serve my fellow man... In promotion of peace and justice."

Hamaneh's main concern is to emphasize five points which he deems essential to a better understanding of the Holy Scriptures (the Old and New Testaments) they are as follows: truths are not taught by human wisdom but by the spirit. Second, people who live by faith will always be in God's favour and are "the true seed of Abraham, the father of all believers." Third, through God's blessing of Abraham all faithful are blessed. Fourth, the inheritance of God's promises is entirely dependent on faith. Fifth and most significantly, God's partiality with all nations who venerate, "and have a reverential fear of God, treating him with worshipful obedience, trust and up-right living," are acceptable and welcomed by him.

Biblical stories are recounted by Dr. Hamarneh with geographical annotations which are probably unknown (for the most part) to the average Bible reader who lives outside the Middle East. In many instances the author also gives notes on possible linguistic links to Bible vocabulary — Arabic meanings as compared to Hebrew meanings. Although the meanings are often similar connotations and could be interpreted differently depending on accentuation.

Dr. Hamarneh's monograph is surely a most scholarly piece of work. However, the reader who is not familiar with the particularities of Biblical studies and references often gets lost in the spiritual and religious jargon that exists throughout text.

It is only occasionally that the reader is able to apply the text to a given "real life" situation. In a

## Dermatology in outer space

Dr. Oumeish Youssef Oumeish is a practicing Dermatologist and Venereologist in Amman. He contributed this article to Jordan Times.

By Dr. Oumeish Youssef Oumeish

AMMAN — Oh, no! Not another sub-specialty of dermatology! But yes, says Arnold C. Toback, M.D., an instructor in clinical dermatology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, who believes there is a legitimate place in this world for "space dermatology," now that phase two of the space odyssey is back on.

With U.S. shuttle flying again and the Soviets "Mir" space station programme going full blast and Mars apparently just over the horizon for both countries, Dr. Toback said the time is ripe for new emphasis on the problems of keeping men and women (and eventually, perhaps, children) healthy beyond the earth's atmosphere.

Dr. Toback was featured at a breakfast "focus session" Saturday and at a press conference Sunday at the convention centre. He predicted that extended space flight will produce unique new dermatoses or familiar old ones in novel guise, plus skin-related problems still unforeseen.

While space itself is inhospitable to all living things, the controlled environment of a closed spacecraft is extremely friendly to microorganisms, he said.

He recalled that in the 1973-74 U.S. Skylab series of three long-duration earth-orbital flights, yeasts and bacteria left behind by one crew were found by a subsequent crew to have proliferated in the hiatus between missions and bothered succeeding crews.

### Funny looking parents

What this implies for permanent habitations in space such as Mir and the proposed American-built western-operated space station of the 1990s is a matter of conjecture, Dr. Toback said.

He foresaw the possible emergence of immunologic changes as a result of long space missions, some of which have been suggested by in-flight and post-flight findings from both U.S. and Soviet operations.

Asked at the press conference for a curbstone diagnosis of the dermatologic status of E.T., the little alien in the movie of the same name, Dr. Toback said it looked very much to him like ichthyosis. Then he added: "The key for funny-looking children is funny-looking parents, and that's the thing to look for."

## The nightmare of earthquakes

CHINA, with 460 seismic monitoring stations, including nine run in co-operation with the United States, is investing increasingly heavily in trying to predict when and where earthquakes will occur.

There is a pressing need to do this, particularly in Western China, one of the most earthquake-prone regions in the world. Foreknowledge of quakes would enable the mass-evacuation of people from the threatened areas.

So far the Chinese have had both successes and failures in seismic forecasting.

They failed to predict an earthquake in Yunnan Province last November in which more than 600 people were killed. Unfortunately, although there are 33 monitoring stations in Yunnan, there is only one — in Kunming, the provincial capital — that has American equipment, the most sophisticated sort at present used in China.

However, China is reportedly the first country to have ever made an accurate short-term prediction of a big earthquake: one at Heicheng in 1975. It measured 7.3 on the Richter scale. A forecast was made on morning, and the quake occurred a few hours later.

But Mr. Chen Zhanli, research director at China's State Seismological Office, has said that the Chinese still have more failures than successes in short-term forecasting.

Three years ago scientists believed that there might be a large earthquake in Yunnan sometime in the following ten years. As a result, seismologists kept a close watch on that province.

Results of an investigation conducted in Lancang, Yunnan, last August indicated that there might be a big quake there within about two years; it was not considered

right to make any more precise forecast.

Mr. Chen said recently that the Yunnan earthquake verified his staff's mid-term and long-term predictions. Also the research produced important new information about seismic activity in the hours before a quake, including about changes in underground temperature.

During the past two years the Chinese have been installing equipment to measure small changes in underground temperatures. A monitoring station about 150 kilometres from the epicentre recorded a maximum temperature rise of 0.2 degrees centigrade before the Yunnan earthquake.

Chinese seismologists are also measuring strain inside rock.

It is expected that western China, now experiencing above-average seismic activity, is likely to have earthquake of more than seven on the Richter scale in the next few years.

The world's worst earthquake in terms of loss of life occurred in China — epicentre in Shensi Province — 433 years ago (on February 2, 1556). It killed an estimated 830,000 people.

The worst quake in recent years was also in China. It destroyed the city of Tangshan July 28, 1976, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths. Other major Chinese earthquakes, with similar massive carnage, occurred in Kansu in the 1920s.

Each year throughout the world there are an estimated 500,000 detectable seismic or micro-seismic disturbances. About 100,000 of these can be felt and about 1,000 cause damage. It is only when there is large-scale loss of life, such as in Soviet Armenia recently, that earthquakes are given front-page coverage in the world's Press. — Lion feature.

## Tinkering with the unknown

This Tibetan woman is an oracle who, when possessed by a spirit, can cure ailments and predict the future. For the last 45 years she has been holding court in her dingy kitchen. People come from miles around with ailments, problems and a good measure of faith. Call it voodoo or black magic, it is difficult to either endorse or reject this sort of practice given the uncertainties of our technology-ridden age.

By Rekha Sharma

AN EXPECTANT hush had fallen over the dingy Ladakhi kitchen. A great iron stove, decorated with brass motifs, stood against one wall. A glistening array of pots and pans lined the shelves above it. Above forty people, including members of the "lhamos" family sat unmoving in the little room, their faces reflecting fear, awe, and absolute faith in their oracle.

A frail little lady entered the room. She washed her hands, and ... what was this? Her eyes took on a glazed look, while her presence emitted a power totally incongruous with her tiny frame. She sat before her prayer vessels and began chanting. Her body twitched violently, her voice changed, and with the ringing of the little Tibetan bell in her hand she was transformed into an entirely different personality. What was going on?

We had come to the "Moonland" and its freezing inhospitable winter, in pursuit of the little known oracles of Ladakh. With a healthy apprehension of the unknown in our hearts, we had set out to make contact with these extraordinary humans in communion with spirits of the Astral world. Usually these oracles are sneered at and dismissed as "tricksters" and "showmen", out to exploit the simple and gullible village folk.

In this age of star wars and technological advancement, who can believe in such happenings? And yet, are we correct in outright condemnation, or is it our ignorance and fear of the unknown that prompts our reactions? We were determined to find out.

What we discovered was an entirely different world. It was difficult to retain a sense of reality. In fact, what is reality? We were not very sure anyway.

Ladakhi Buddhists firmly believe in the existence of 360 "lhas" or spirits of various gods and goddesses, controlled by "lha" Wangchuk Chenpo. These spirits temporarily take over the bodies of "lhamos" (female oracles), who act as "mediums". These oracles are of two kinds, "ulbas" and "khimlhas". "Ulbas" occupy a higher status in the hierarchical order. Respective "lhamas" and "lhamos" are possessed by the same "lha" each time.

The possession usually takes place during the yearly 2-3 day festival in their monastery after prolonged penance and prayer. When "possessed" they primarily make predictions about the future for the country, the village, and answer personal queries. "Khimlas," on the other hand, are a lower rung. "Lhas" and "lhamos" of this order can be

possessed at will. While under possession they undertake to cure people of minor ailments, destroy evil spirits possessing them, solve personal problems and make predictions for the future.

Armed with cameras and recorders we drove down to the Sbabu village, in search of the "khimla lhamo." Had we met her in the street, she would probably have passed unnoticed. Yet, seated in her kitchen — in front of her seven neatly arranged little containers filled with water, grain, flower, incense, fire, "satu" (powdered barley), a replica of a "stupa" and a little drum sitting in a pot of grain — she held every eye in the room.

Chanting in Tibetan, a language she does not remotely comprehend in normal life, she began proceedings. How prosaic that sounds. How can one describe in mere words the spectacle that followed?

She united a bundle of clothing. An old apron in gold and maroon silk brocade went around her waist. A little blue poncho with dragons and "dorjees" in silver brocade she draped over her shoulders. On the lower half of her face she tied a red cotton scarf. Finally she donned her head gear — five painted wooden plates depicting five forms of Buddha, intertwined with "khada" (prayer scarves). During these entire proceedings, her eyes were partially shut, the pupils rolled back, and her body was twitching uncontrollably.

Picking up an old Tibetan bell, a "dorje", and a little silver spoon in her left hand, she fitted them between her fragile fingers and began ringing the bell. Her voice changed dramatically.

She lifted a little drum in her right hand and played that too — chanting all the while. Her body twitched violently. She then turned towards us. Who was this? Surely not the lady who first entered the room? I had always considered myself a non-believer. Yet, in that room there was no question of any doubt in my mind. This was no fraud being perpetrated. This was for real.

Beating the ground with a little stick, eyes partially closed, she signalled for the first person to be brought before her. The petrified young village woman hesitated — and was beaten with the stick. You cannot keep a "lha" waiting.

The woman hurriedly undid her "goncha" (Ladakhi ankle length dress), and the several layers of clothing underneath till her chest and stomach were bare. The "lhamo" pressed her fingers into the patient's body, then bent to suck something out of her solar plexus. She spat it out into a little basin. I peered in to see a large mass of something that looked like clotted blood. There was no cut or abrasion on the patient's body — then how did she do it?

Several other patients followed. She sucked out stones, blood clots, and even a tiny baby bird. It was bizarre to say the least.

Apart from the physical, people came to her with personal problems — she advised them, made predictions and blessed them. All this was interspersed with sudden bursts of aggression, when she would swing her stick

around, striking anyone within range.

Towards the end, she picked up her "phurba" — hard metal object, with a "dorje" (signifying wisdom) at one end, and a sharp curved blade at the other — wrapped in several "khada"s. She proceeded to bless people with it. A "phurba" is said to be indestructible. It has the power to destroy evil, and provides its owner with tremendous mental strength. This particular "phurba" had been given to her by a "Rimpoché" (reincarnated lama) of a very high order. While handing it to her he had predicted that she would eventually reach a place where she would come into contact with the spirit of Padmasambhava.

Meanwhile the lady had been flinging grain and holy water at the gathering. The closing ceremony had begun. She started beating herself and her body went through strange contortions. She finally removed her headgear, poncho, apron and scarf, chanting vigorously all the time, then fell to the ground beating herself. Slowly the twitching subsided, her voice returned to normal, her eyes cleared, and she was still. It was over. I don't know how she left, but I was exhausted just from watching the action.

She cleared her little table, washed her hands and left the room. The tension in the room eased visibly, and a semblance of normalcy returned to the kitchen.

The little lady came in once again. She greeted us with a wide smile and sat on the rug beside me. Was this indeed the same person? This simple, bright eyed gentle creature could not have been the central figure in the bizarre spectacle that had lasted for over three hours. Yet, she was. We asked via our interpreter if she would mind answering a few questions. She inclined her head in assent and smiled.

We learnt that she first started getting possessed after her mother's death, when she was a

child, just 4 years old. She would suddenly go racing up a steep hill, and would perform feats impossible for such a tiny child. Her parents and both been "khimlas". The father, therefore, took the girl to the Stok village for consultation with the "lhamas" (Buddhist monks). She was then taken to Thikse, where the "lhamas" put her through rigorous training. This included a month of meditation in the solitude of a mountain cave.

After two years of this training, she was blessed by two distinguished "Rimpoches", and told she could begin work as a "khimla".

She suffered several problems in the early days. She was plagued by bouts of weakness as a result of the possession. At times she would be overcome by fits of madness. Yet, slowly, as she continued with her daily routine of prayer, and with long periods of meditation and fasting, she came to be in control of herself.

Now, for the last 45 years or so, she has been holding court every morning in her dingy little kitchen. People come from miles around with ailments, problems and a good measure of faith. If it is something she cannot cure, she tells you to see a doctor.

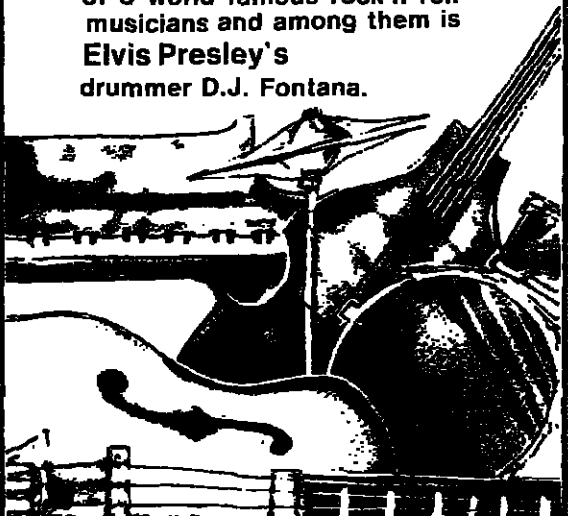
She knows not what "lha" will possess her each day. Different spirits come and take charge of her body. At times she is possessed simultaneously by several "lhas". One particular "lha" apparently speaks the language of a crow. When he arrives, his words are interpreted by one of the few people in the village who can comprehend the conversation. Once the trance is over, she has no recollection whatsoever of what transpired. Yet, she enjoys her work. When people come to her saying she has cured them, she experiences a tremendous sense of satisfaction. "It makes my life worthwhile," she says. "Who will be the next 'lhamo'?" I ask. She points towards her little granddaughter and smiles — Gulf weekly.

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# Bankers, economists discount early Gulf reconstruction boom

**BAHRAIN (R)** — Prospects of a post-war reconstruction boom in Iran and Iraq are being stalled by deadlocked peace talks, bad debt and fears that new investors could lose their money.

Bankers and economists say that although both states were rebuilding their shattered economies following the August ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war, a shortage of money was likely to delay development.

"Neither Iran nor Iraq want to continue fighting," said Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam.

"But for someone to put in money, they need to know there is a peace agreement signed and sealed by the two countries," he told Reuters.

Bankers said Iraq, burdened by up to \$65 billion of debt and an inflation rate of 35 to 40 per cent, would have to rely on Arab development funds and guarantees from Western export credit agencies for the lion's share of outside

funding. Iran — free of major debt — is a better candidate for foreign loans, but bankers say this is unlikely as the country is in the throes of an internal debate over whether borrowing is compatible with Islam.

Usury is forbidden by the Koran, the Islamic holy book.

"I can't see the Iranians coming to the international market as borrowers like the other less developed countries because of this interest rate problem," Azzam said.

"But they will tell contractors who are bidding for projects they will give it to them if they come with their own financing...there might be an oil barter arrangement," he added.

Iranian Deputy Interior Minister

Mohammad Sadr last week urged his country to shun foreign borrowing, saying it would mean kissing the Islamic revolution goodbye.

One Western diplomat said many foreign businessmen would be reluctant to invest in Iran until it was clear who would succeed its spiritual leader, 86-year-old Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"If there is no clear successor for Khomeini, there will be a tremendous struggle for power after he dies. You could lose everything you invested instantly," he said.

Higher oil prices brought on by OPEC's latest pact to curb production are expected to boost 1989 revenues for both Iran and Iraq but businessmen in the Gulf community say hopes of a commercial boom following the ceasefire remain unfulfilled.

"The actual expenditure in Iran and Iraq is not going to be what some people are talking about," said Khaled Al Fayez,

head of the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation.

Half of Iraq's total debt is thought to be owed to its two main Gulf war backers, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Arab development funds have extended more than \$200 million.

Bankers said Baghdad would continue to tap these resources but they would not meet all the country's development needs.

"The only thing which would help Iraq overcome its credit problems would be to tell the whole world what their intentions are regarding their outstanding debts," one Arab banker said.

"There is very little appetite now for additional long-term Iraqi risk on the part of the commercial banks," said another.

"All foreign credit lines to Iraq are already fully utilised and unless it improves on its payments record it is unlikely they will be increased," he added.

France, with official claims on Iraq of around \$4 billion, has

refused to extend further credit to Iraq until the country begins to settle current payment arrears.

Britain, on the other hand, has almost doubled its 1989 credit line to \$598 million in a move aimed at reaping preference in future contract awards.

German and Italian companies are also vying for the lead in post-war reconstruction.

"It is not unexpected that you would see some new money committed... Iraq is not in as much straits as some countries in Latin America," Fayez said.

Four Arab funds agreed in Kuwait last week to study an Iraqi request for \$600 million for water and electricity projects in the heavily damaged port city of Basra.

Bankers and diplomats said military spending was another obstacle barring major reconstruction in Iran and Iraq.

"Both countries are spending like mad on rearming," one diplomat said.

## 'Fortress Europe' raises concern

**DAVOS, Switzerland (R)** — The European Community (EC) has given assurances there will be no protectionist "fortress Europe" after internal trade barriers disappear in 1992 but many non-Europeans seem unconvinced.

Senior EC politicians at the annual World Economic Forum have stressed that the new market of 320 million people will be fully open to imports from Japan, the United States and elsewhere.

But Eishiro Saito, chairman of Japan's Feidanren (Federation of Economic Organisations), said Japanese businessmen were concerned that protectionist tendencies in Europe would intensify after 1992.

He said Japanese industry had invested big amounts in Europe pouring \$6.5 billion into the region in 1987, a 90 per cent increase over 1986.

But recently there had been an increasing emphasis by EC countries on the need for higher local content in products made by Japanese firms in Europe, he told a symposium Saturday.

"I am afraid this casts a dark shadow on future prospects we have in this area," he said.

"Europe is very unlikely to avoid a fortress Europe result," said Lester Thurow, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and among the 1,000 senior political and business leaders attending the forum.

He said the 12-nation Community already had an integrated market for agriculture and food imports from outside.

"When I travel around Europe, I hear people say, 'We are not going to allow the Japanese to do to Europe what they have done to the United States'," he added.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said his country was actively considering whether to apply for EC membership in case its interests were harmed by staying out.

"More than two-thirds of our trade is with the 12. Faced with 1992 and its consequences, we are obliged to react and analyse the situation," he added.

EC Commission President Jacques Delors dismissed fears that the EC would be protectionist and said it was the Community's duty and in its interest to operate an open market.

He said the EC already had multilateral and bilateral relationships with member countries

of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as well as cooperation accords with Yugoslavia, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta.

He said the EC wanted to strengthen ties with East Bloc countries and had not forgotten its duties towards countries bordering the Mediterranean.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens rejected talk of a "fortress Europe" as nonsense.

At every stage of its development, the EC had proved more open to the world than some of its individual members, and its share of world trade was higher than that of either the United States or Japan.

"All indications are that the creation of the internal market will benefit third countries. Many large U.S. and Japanese firms have well understood what is going on and have prepared themselves for the many opportunities on offer," he said.

He said protectionist voices could be heard sometimes in Europe, but they were less numerous and noisy than in the U.S. or Japan.

"It is the opposite of a 'fortress Europe'. It's a project to demolish trade barriers," he said.

## Dollar strength poses dilemma

**LONDON (R)** — The dollar's irrepresible new year rally has boxed industrial nations into a policy dilemma, threatening higher interest rates worldwide and posing a serious challenge to the goal of stable exchange rates.

Economists say financial leaders from the Group of Seven (G-7) Western powers, due to meet in Washington this week, will be hard pushed to avoid the conclusion that their range of policy options is small and the risk of higher interest rates great.

"It is a box the Group of Seven nations can't talk themselves out of," said Gerald Holtham, chief international economist at London brokers Shearson Lehman Hutton.

The U.S. currency's surge, beaten back but far from reversed after five bouts of coordinated central bank dollar sales in the past 14 days, puts to the test the

Group of Seven's commitment to exchange rate stability agreed in Paris in February, 1987.

Since what became known as the "Louvre accord", the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy have pegged the dollar within bands against major currencies.

But as it bumps up against what is widely thought to be an unpublicised ceiling agreed against the Deutschmark, the scope for policy change is limited and economists say the only practical way out may be to buy time through intervention.

The ideal solution would be for the Bush administration to cut the U.S. budget deficit, dampening demand in the United States, allowing the Federal Reserve (Fed) to cut interest rates and making the dollar less attractive to investors.

But economists believe difficult

negotiations with Congress will prevent an early breakthrough and expect Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, who has been tightening policy to head off inflation, will resist pressure from Bush's new budget team to cut rates.

"The pressure will be on the Fed to ease monetary policy," said Jim O'Neil, analyst at Swiss Bank Corp in London.

Greenspan told the House Banking Committee in Washington last week monetary policy needed to err on the side of restrictiveness and said current inflation rates were too high.

He found a ready ally in his West German counterpart, Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl, who later said his nation's monetary policy would be less expansionary in 1989. And he explicitly backed Greenspan's anti-inflation drive.

The prospect of a U.S. policy split and slow budget negotiations does not bode well for new initiatives by finance ministers and central bank chiefs at their Feb. 3 meeting.

Senior monetary officials held preparatory talks in Zurich Thursday, but ministers have played down the possible outcome of the formal Washington

meeting. They have billed it as a "get-to-know you" session which might not issue a communiqué.

Bush's team is keen to start a new initiative on the Third World debt crisis, but European monetary sources said the focus of attention is likely to be on a review of dollar policy.

The dollar's gains, fuelled by tighter U.S. policy, are already posing problems.

A stronger dollar would boost inflation in Europe and Japan as import prices rise. West German consumer prices rose to a year-on-year 2.5 per cent in January from 1.6 month earlier.

Rising inflation could spark higher interest rates in Europe, risking a recession and collapse of business confidence at a time when stock markets are forging ahead strongly.

A high dollar would make U.S. exports less competitive, exacerbating the huge U.S. trade deficit. A key objective of policy coordination has been to redress global imbalances.

If the dollar were to break out of the top end of the Louvre accord target against the mark, thought to be 1.90, central bankers are worried the rally 'could get out of hand'.

## Boeing predicts lower sales

**DUBAI (R)** — Boeing, the world's biggest commercial aircraft manufacturer, expects a sharp drop in sales in 1989 largely in the interests of passenger safety, senior company managers said Saturday.

The company is forecasting 1989 sales of around \$20 billion following last year's record \$30 billion order book, said Ardell Anderson, a director of the division which produces the firm's most successful 737 passenger jet range.

The cut will be self-imposed as the firm concentrates on upholding safety standards, which became a matter of public concern after the crash of a Boeing 737 in Britain earlier this month.

"We could be very greedy at Boeing. There is a tremendous demand for our planes. We could increase the production rate much higher but we will not do that if the quality of our airplanes would be sacrificed," said Anderson at a Boeing reception to mark the 1989 Dubai airshow.

Anderson estimated Boeing would take on only around two thirds of the 636 plane orders it took last year.

"We are not going to increase our capacity until we are sure our people can handle it," said Boeing's director of Middle East sales Duane Long.

Boeing is now looking to set deliveries for as far ahead as 1993 and 1994, said Anderson.

The modern system of producing parts all over the world has increased profitability but also demands on quality control.

Only the wings of Boeing aircraft are wholly made at its Seattle plant, in Washington state. The other parts are made elsewhere, as far apart as China and Texas, and shipped in.

Anderson said Boeing had taken the initiative in improving its suppliers' training and quality control programmes.

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## Analysts belittle Japanese inflation

**TOKYO (R)** — Despite snappy economic growth, driven by brisk consumer spending, Japan should be able to sidestep inflation worries for at least another year, economists say.

Lower costs of imports are dampening domestic prices, keeping a heavy lid on inflation, they said.

Many economists forecast Japan's consumer prices to hold below two per cent this year, a level that presents no threat to the economy.

"If consumer prices were climbing three of four per cent, we would have problems. But with prices going up between only one to two per cent this year, there is no need for worry," said chief economist Toshiaki Kakimoto at Sumitomo Bank.

Kakimoto sees consumer prices gaining 1.6 per cent in 1989, up only slightly from 1988's 0.7 per cent. Forecasts by other economists ranged between 1.4 and 1.9 per cent.

The government announced the 1988 figure last week. "Stability of prices should continue this year," said economist Shigeru Saito of Daiwa Securities Research Institute. The new consumption tax will have a big impact on prices, but that will be

just temporary and not cause any worries, he said.

The across-the-board three per cent consumption tax on all goods will go into effect from April 1. Kakimoto estimates the tax will boost consumer prices in 1989 by 1.1 percentage points.

"The three-per cent consumption tax at first looks like it would push consumer prices up the same three per cent, but actually it will not, as industry is unlikely to pass that whole increase on," he noted.

Heavy corporate investment in plants and machinery for the past year or so has been improving production efficiency and lowering costs, Kakimoto said.

Economists also said that when the consumption tax went into effect, the current high luxury taxes on cars, jewellery and other goods as well as indirect taxes would be abolished and help offset the three per cent tax.

Another impact on prices will be higher wages, economists said. Although the yearly labour talks around April may lead to wage hikes of five per cent or so, that increase is unlikely to feed back into consumer prices as manufacturers should absorb some of those costs, they said.

"If domestic prices start to rise, imports will come in and cool them down," Kakimoto said.

The strong yen has been keeping prices of Japan's mostly dollar-based imports low and that should continue for the time being, said Susumu Kato, economist at County Natwest Securities Japan.

Although the dollar has strengthened against the yen over the past weeks, economists see it falling back against the yen later this year.

Kakimoto expects the dollar to turn around some time after April. The dollar has gained on market expectations President Bush will act to cut the huge U.S. budget deficit, but when nothing develops the currency will weaken again, he said.

Kakimoto also sees U.S. interest rates peaking after April, which would reduce dollar's attractiveness.

Although Japan is a heavy importer of oil, needed to run its industries, economists said the recent gains in crude prices were unlikely to stir up Japanese inflation.

Oil prices should soften this year as worldwide economic growth on the whole is likely to slow in 1989 and reduce demand for crude, they said.

## Poles expect worsening economy

**WARSAW (R)** — Wrapped in thick winter coats and fur hats, housewives stand glumly in line at a food store. Across the city, people shuffle slowly in chilling temperatures towards the counter of a clothing shop selling men's shirts.

Poles are accustomed to queues, shortages and shoddy goods. And despite a host of economic reforms taking effect in 1989, many of them say things are going to get worse.

According to Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity trade union, Poland has become the "beggar of Europe."

Items in short supply include coffee, washing machines, televisions, good clothes, bed linen and blankets, car parts, toilet paper, shoes and boots.

Some articles can only be bought for dollars on the thriving black market, where the Polish zloty has become almost worthless. Inflation is soaring and Poland cannot even pay the interest on its crippling foreign debt of \$37.9 billion.

Union officials say real incomes are 20 per cent lower than in 1979, before the Solidarity upheaval, and Poles eat considerably less meat under rationing than in 1980.

"If anything, I think queues are going to get even longer. There are 18,000 people where I work and to a man they are fed up," said a factory worker queuing for food in central Warsaw.

The government needs to keep down inflation, he said. "I don't think its economic reforms will have any effect for at least five years."

The first economic reforms of Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski, who took office in September, took effect earlier this month.

They include measures to encourage private enterprise and foreign business and the establishment of nine new banks operating independently of the central state bank.

Other laws which took effect in the new year reduced top rates of income tax and allowed more Poles to legally possess dollars.

Western diplomats say Rakowski wants to inject foreign and domestic capital into the economy and strengthen the zloty to curb annual inflation, which the government puts at about 40 per cent. Some officials say it may reach 100 per cent in January.

However, Rakowski says personal sacrifices are needed, and the end of petrol rationing and coal restrictions are accompanied by price rises for these items.

to show a quarterly profit rise of 10 to 18 per cent.

The computer maker's revenues in the fourth quarter climbed 9.3 per cent, to \$20.80 billion, while per-share earnings rose a solid 14.4 per cent to \$3.97, partly due to a reduction in the number of shares outstanding.

The fourth-quarter net profit was even more impressive because it included the absorption of a one-time charge of \$270 million to cover the costs of greater-than-expected personnel departures. The lower employment levels should give a boost to future earnings periods, analysts said.

The company reported that 6,500 employees had decided to leave, compared with earlier estimates of 3,000 to 4,000. The reductions were linked to manufacturing and headquarters consolidations.

IBM reports 12 per cent profit gain

**NEW YORK (R)** — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp., the world's largest computer company, has said its profit in the fourth quarter of 1988 rose 12.4 per cent to \$2.35 billion, rounding off its best year since 1985.

Strong acceptance of new products, which led to a nearly 10 per cent sales rise in the fourth quarter, along with a lower cost structure were given credit for the

higher profit.

For the year, the computer giant's earnings rose 10.4 per cent to \$5.81 billion revenue climbed eight per cent to \$59.68 billion.

"Our customers have responded positively to improved products in every segment of our business, and we have increased our efficiency significantly," Chairman John Akers said in a statement.

It was the biggest money-making year for IBM since 1985, when the company had record earnings of \$6.56 billion.

Since that time, IBM has moved to control costs and reestablish its lead in some key segments, such as mid-sized computers, where others have made inroads.

Analysts were generally pleased with the fourth-quarter results and said IBM appeared poised for further gains in 1989. Analysts had been expecting IBM

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Swiss franc	302.3	310.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	379.4	381.3
Dutch guilder	253.1	254.5
Italian lira (for 100)	715.2	716.5
Belgian franc (for 100)	125.7	126.5

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## Polls reaffirm Bhutto's power

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani by-elections confirmed the strength of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's People's Party, but the conservative opposition succeeded in electing one of its leaders to parliament, official results Sunday showed.

Bhutto's left-leaning Pakistan People's Party won four national seats in parliament and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance captured seven. But the results were seen as a victory for the prime minister's forces because the alliance's new parliamentary seats are all from its stronghold, the state of Punjab, where it was expected to win.

Figures from the Pakistan election commission showed the turnout in Saturday's voting averaged just under 50 per cent as it did in general elections last November.

At stake were 13 seats in the 237-seat National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, and

seven seats in the provincial legislatures.

Among the opposition's winners was alliance leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi who suffered a humiliating defeat in his home district in southern Sindh province in the previous election.

This time he ran — and won — in Punjab. He is expected to lead the opposition forces on the National Assembly floor. But the opposition will remain outnumbered two-to-one by Bhutto's party and its allies.

The remaining two national seats went to an independent and a candidate of a minor party. In the provincial contests,

Bhutto's party and the alliance each won three seats, and an independent party captured one seat.

The election commission awarded Bhutto's party one national and one provincial seat earlier because the party's candidates ran unopposed in those races.

Saturday's results reflected the voting pattern in November when Pakistan held its first free elections in 11 years.

Bhutto's party emerged the strongest nationwide but fell short of an outright majority. The nine-party opposition alliance, which includes proteges of the late military strongman President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, established a power base in Punjab where it now controls the provincial legislature.

Zia died in a plane crash last August, clearing the way for the Bhutto forces' return to power. Zia overthrew Benazir's father,

Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in a bloodless 1977 coup and ordered him hanged two years later after he was convicted of conspiring to murder a political opponent.

Of Pakistan's 48 million-strong electorate, only three million were entitled to vote Saturday. The contests took place in districts where candidates last November won more than one seat, or where the vote was postponed because a candidate had died.

Pakistan allows national and provincial candidates to run for more than one seat but they can claim only one. The extra seats are put to a second vote in by-elections and usually go to a candidate of the same party.

Chief election Commissioner S.A. Nusrat said Saturday's voting generally was calm and peaceful except for one district in the Punjab capital of Lahore where police waded in to break up a



Benazir Bhutto

stone-throwing melee between supporters of Bhutto and the opposition.

Nusrat said the disturbance did not disrupt voting.

## Anti-U.S. riots hit South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Radical students demanding the expulsion of U.S. troops from South Korea hurled hundreds of firebombs and rocks at riot police Sunday after they were blocked from marching through Seoul.

Hundreds of riot police in green combat fatigues and black visored helmets retaliated by hurling tear gas grenades and made three charges to drive back students during the clashes. Police armoured vans sprayed the protesters with tear gas.

"American troops get out," protesters screamed as waves of students pelted troops with firebombs. Several troops were set on fire as the bombs exploded in balls of orange flame.

Police officials, who said 10,000 riot police were deployed across Seoul to block the protest, had no immediate word on arrests or injuries.

Earlier Sunday, several youths hurled firebombs at a Seoul court building and yelled radical slogans before fleeing, police said. The bombs caused slight damage, but there were no reports of injuries, they said.

Fighting erupted when some 6,000 labour union activists and radical students tried to march to the city centre. Labour groups and students had held separate rallies a few metres (yards) apart, but then joined ranks for the

Workers and students yelled anti-government slogans calling for the fall of President Roh Tae-Woo's conservative administration and the arrest of former President Chun Doo-Hwan on corruption charges.

"Arrest Chun Doo-Hwan. Oust Roh Tae-Woo," protesters chanted as they marched to the beat of drums and brass gongs.

The marchers, carrying dozens of red, white and blue flags with anti-government slogans, were halted after a few hundred metres by riot police. Shoving and pushing erupted, but the marchers could not get through.

Students armed with firebombs and rocks then attacked police. Fighting was confined to a main street and several side streets and lasted more than one hour.

The labour activists did not take part in the fighting, and many of them left in buses to stage a protest outside the headquarters of the giant Samsung Corporation, a producer of ships, televisions and other goods. Several thousand riot police ringed the building as workers shouted slogans and hurled leaflets before leaving peacefully.

Labour leaders denounced the government and major corporations, claiming they suppressed trade unions and exploited workers to produce cheap exports.

## Sri Lanka rebels hit security forces

COLOMBO (R) — Suspected left-wing rebels, bent on disrupting next month's Sri Lankan general elections, attacked police stations and an army vehicle killing six security men, military sources said Sunday.

They blamed the People's Liberation Front, composed of members of the majority Sinhalese community, for the attacks at the weekend.

Rebels hurled bombs and fired at two police stations in the capital, Colombo and another in a suburb Saturday night. Four policemen died and one was seriously wounded in the raids, the sources said.

The rebels escaped with a large number of guns from one of the stations. Police and troops launched joint search operations for the attackers.

Police across the island have been alerted for possible further attacks.

The sources said rebels fired at

an army vehicle at Akuressa in the south Sunday, killing two soldiers and injuring another. An arrested rebel, who was in the jeep, died in the clash.

The front, describing the Feb. 15 election as a fraud, has called on the people to boycott it.

Suspected front member raided two post offices in the north-central Polonnaruwa district Saturday and destroyed polling cards that were to be distributed to voters.

A branch office of the main opposition group, the Freedom Party, at Weligama in the south was set ablaze.

Nine candidates for the election and more than 200 supporters of various political parties have been killed since campaigning started three weeks ago.

Police have blamed the Front for most of the violence. Observers said rivalry among supporters of candidates was also responsible for some of the attacks.

## U.N. begins review of rights violations

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations begins its annual review of human rights abuses Monday with diplomats split on whether the exercise significantly helps protect individuals against tyranny.

Grim tales of torture, arbitrary arrest, summary execution, mistreatment of minorities and denial of individual rights will be aired in public during the six-week session of the U.N.'s human rights commission.

Some diplomats view the annual meeting, attended by more than 1,200 government representatives and human rights experts, as a major exercise in hypocrisy as governments with equally poor human rights records attack each other.

They argue that the debates, now in their 45th year, do little to prevent hundreds of thousands of people being deprived of their basic rights.

But others feel the publicity surrounding the session forces some offending countries to mend their ways.

"Even if one person somewhere is let out of jail the commission will have achieved something," one Western European diplomat said.

Commission Secretary John Pacey said the greater awareness

of human rights than when the commission began meeting was reflected in the volume of requests to the U.N. Human Rights Centre for Assistance.

"We have seen very great progress since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 40 years ago," said Jan Martenson, U.N. under-secretary-general for human rights.

But he conceded: "Unfortunately, we see daily gross human rights violations in various corners of the world."

Israel is likely to come under fire again for beating and shooting Palestinians in efforts to contain a 13-month-old uprising in its occupied territories.

Delegates will also hear reports on summary executions, torture and disappearances in a number of countries in Latin America and the Middle East.

U.N. sources said plans by the Romanian government to destroy entire villages as part of a modernisation programme could be brought up although the issue was not on the agenda.

Racial segregation in South Africa and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities in several countries feature on the agenda, along with a planned charter on the protection of children.



Oliver North

WASHINGTON (R) — More than two years after the Iran-contra scandal exploded as Ronald Reagan's worst White House crisis, the issue of whether Oliver North was a hero or a lawbreaker is set for trial.

Jury selection is due to start Tuesday in the trial of North, the former White House aide and retired marine lieutenant colonel who orchestrated the sale of arms

## Trial looms for North

to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels in 1985-86, when U.S. military aid was banned by Congress.

Once described by Reagan as "a national hero" and called a patriot by George Bush, North was fired from his job as a White House National Security Council aide when the scandal became public in November 1986.

He has pleaded not guilty to the string of coverup and misconduct charges lodged against him and vowed to wage a vigorous defence — including efforts to call Reagan and Bush as defence witnesses — in an effort to show his superiors approved of his clandestine White House activities.

A boyish-looking, articulate man of 45, who stirred a wave of "Olliemania" with his impassioned patriotic testimony at televised congressional hearings in 1987, North got a big break recently when the two central

charges of fraud and theft relating to the secret contra funds diversion were dropped.

Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh told trial Judge Gerhard Gesell he could not prosecute those bedrock charges because the government refused him the public use of classified intelligence documents necessary to make his case.

So round one has gone by default to North's defence led by Brendan Sullivan, who was involved in many verbal battles with members of Congress at the 1987 hearings.

Still remaining, however, are a dozen charges including obstructing justice by shredding secret White House documents, lying to Congress and joining a tax-fraud conspiracy to raise private funds for the contras.

Also looming over the trial are the defence subpoenas of president Bush and ex-president Reagan and the major constitutional issues these raise.

## Muslims protest Rushdie's book

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of Muslims from around Britain marched through London Saturday to demand a ban on Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses," which they regard as blasphemous.

As one group of marchers made their way to the south London offices of publisher Penguin Books, another group called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asking for legislation to make blasphemy against non-Christian religions an offence, as blasphemy against Christianity is.

The marchers, estimated by police at about 8,000, chanted as they wound their way through central London. They were held up by police at one point and asked to be "less excitable," but no incidents were reported.

"The Satanic Verses" is named after the verses the Prophet Mohammad removed from the

Koran on grounds they were inspired by the devil.

Shahid Shuja, spokesman for the Islamic Defence Council, said: "If a thing is evil, you either have to sit back and do nothing, or take action against it. This is evil, and we are taking action."

He denied that any serious threats had been made against the life of author Rushdie and added that he had been opposed to action by about 1,000 Muslims in northern England who burned copies of the book. Rushdie has said he received death threats.

"Books give knowledge and wisdom. I do not like burning books," Shuja said, but added: "This book does not give knowledge and wisdom."

Booksellers W.H. Smith withdrew "The Satanic Verses" from view after pressure from Muslim groups, although it is still available at the chain's 430 shops.

Marchers carried a letter to Penguin, owners of Viking, the book's publishers, demanding that all remaining copies of the book be withdrawn and destroyed and asking Penguin for an apology.

It described the publication as "Viking's most outrageous-ever sacrilege".

The letter said: "No individual, much less a whole world community, can accept to be abused and insulted in the filthy way that this 'novel' work has sought to do. And no 'serious publisher' can take shelter behind the undisputed right of freedom of expression in order to publish such dirty work."

India and some Arab states have banned the book, which has been on Britain's best-seller list for several weeks.

## China loses go-between in death of Panchen Lama

PEKING (R) — The Panchen Lama, Tibet's second most senior religious leader, has died after suffering a stroke and Asian diplomats said Sunday Peking had lost a valuable intermediary with the Tibetan people.

The New China news agency said the Panchen Lama, 50, died Saturday at his residence in Xigaze, Tibet, where he was presiding over the opening ceremony

of a rebuilt shrine. It said he had been fatigued because of his duties at the opening of the shrine, which contains the remains on the fifth to ninth Panchen Lamas. It gave no more details.

As vice-chairman of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, he was the most

senior Tibetan in the Chinese government, as well as being the second religious leader after the Dalai Lama.

"He was an important person, acceptable to Tibetans and Peking," one diplomat said. "He will be very hard to replace. I know of no one of comparable stature who can take his place."

## Guest workers in W. Germany — 'abused, degraded, human guinea pigs'

By Maggie James

LONDON — Although the exploitation of immigrants is universal, it is disturbing to read a first-hand account of the abuse, hostility and degradation meted out to a foreigner in a so-called civilised society — and it is even more disturbing to learn of the dangerous working conditions endured by this abused minority.

In 1983, West German journalist Günter Wallraff donned the role of Levent Ali Sinirloglu, a Turkish immigrant worker and, over a period of two years, submerged himself into a part that, he admits, he had deferred for years through fear. In previous investigations Wallraff had exposed napalm bomb manufacturers, the backers of a right-wing coup in Portugal, torture in the goals of the Greek junta and the immorality of the gutter-press in Germany.

The difficulties and humiliation of life experienced by Wallraff's alter ego is outlined in *Lowest of the Low*, published by Methuen of London. Though it caused a furor in Germany, the book has been a bestseller there and in France and Holland. As a film it won a British award for the best fore-

ign language film. Official figures estimate that in December 1987 more than 1.5 million Turkish workers and their families lived in Germany, out of a population of 61 million. Few of them can be said to have enjoyed the benefits of mainstream German society.

The unacceptable face of the Turk hides also the unacceptable face of capitalism, says the book's introduction. The racism that defines the Turk as inferior, fit only for dirty jobs and disposable, and locks him permanently into an underclass, is also that which hides from the public gaze the murky doings of industry.

The law and the government turn a blind eye to cheap, alien labour and the result is that a whole system of exploitation is erected on the back of the foreign worker, but racism shields that system from the light of day.

It is that same racism, popular and institutional, that keeps the unions too from taking up the cause of foreign workers — and the contribution of the media and of politicians in making it popular keeps them forever foreign.

Beginning his working life in the black economy in his disguise as Ali, Wallraff obtains a job at a fast food chain in Hamburg. It is no surprise to discover that the work is demanding and low paid. What isn't so palatable is his revelation: "We're given two cloths, one for the table surface, the other for the ashtrays. The cloths often get mixed up, because we have to work so quickly. But no one worries

about that here; often we have to clean the toilets with the same cloths as well."

Experiencing life as a building site worker with the sixth largest construction company in West Germany, Wallraff finds no documentation is necessary to obtain a job and, although the work is physically exhausting and sometimes dangerous, he is not covered by health insurance.

"It is not only the company bank accounts that remain hid-

den; everything is conducted secretly in order to conceal our work on the building site," he reveals. "We have to sign a receipt when we're paid, but there's no duplicate copy for us, and we don't get a written wages slip either. After the pay-out, the foreman immediately takes back the sheets on which he has entered our work times. He does that

ly have to eat it, no one finds it necessary to examine either our state of health or the substances themselves," he discloses.

A high concentration of harmful substances are detected in the samples — in particular a high reading of mercury and lead, which are extremely toxic elements to humans. Wallraff is left with a legacy of bronchial problems from that particular job.

### Guinea pigs

Discovering that Turks and other foreigners, like Indonesians, Latin American political refugees and Pakistanis are in demand as human guinea pigs for the pharmaceutical industry, Wallraff joins their number. He discovers that there are many foreigners who are 'professional' test persons, who go from institute to institute, and sometimes expose themselves to dangerous double tests. It's called 'pharmaceutical prostitution' in the trade.

Wallraff himself, although told that side effects are rare, experiences some unpleasant reactions after taking part in tests. But he charges that the majority of the experimenting is unnecessary.

"It has frequently been proved that the [pharmaceutical] companies themselves tamper with and rewrite reports by reputable clinicians which are based on human tests in public hospitals. What does that say about the many private institutes which test the drugs on 'healthy' paid test-persons, and are almost completely dependent on contracts from the industry itself?" he asks.

Wallraff next turns to maintenance work in a nuclear power station. Enquiring if the work is dangerous, he is assured by the personnel manager that the work is no different from anywhere else in industry. In West Germany, however, there is no precise information on the consequences of limited doses of radiation and most foreign workers who are sent into the intensely radioactive areas of nuclear power stations in repair or cleaning gangs, don't appear in the statistics years of decades later if they have developed cancer of the testicles, the prostate or the thyroid, says Wallraff.

It's for this reason that the managements of nuclear power stations try to make do with a small, permanent, full-time staff and for the relatively dangerous jobs, they often hire temporary workers from subcontractors. Often, these temporary workers receive the maximum 'allowable' annual radiation dose of 5,000 millirems in a few hours or days.

Denouncing the fact that workers from subcontractors are given a medical examination before the job, but not after it, Wallraff asks whether it is murder by instalments. Every year, he says, tens of thousands of cleaners and welders work in German nuclear power stations. About half of them are foreign and they frequently return to their home-lands before the consequences become visible or noticeable.

Wallraff concedes, "I still don't know how an immigrant copes with the daily humiliations, the hostility and the hate. But I do now know what has to be endured, and how far contempt for a human being can go in this country. There's a bit of apartheid happening right here among us — in our democracy. The experiences I had exceeded my worst fears. Today, in the middle of West Germany, I experienced conditions which are usually only described in history books about the nineteenth century."

— Academic File.

## COLUMN

### Baring breasts in pursuit of visa

ROME (AP) — Fiona St. Italy's porn star parliamentarians known as Cicciolina bared breasts in front of the U.S. consulate Friday after again failing to obtain a visa to perform in San Francisco. As photographs snapped away on Via Veneto, 37-year-old Staller opened coat and blouse and held up a sign saying, in Italian, "What the United States afraid of Cicciolina's breasts?" She said: "This isn't the end, I am giving up." The Hungarian-Staller has been trying for weeks to obtain a U.S. visa. Embassy spokesman Mark Dillen said application was "under review." He declined to give any reason for the delay but it is believed stem from her failure to list arrests on the application. She has been arrested on obscenity charges several times. Wednesday was convicted by Venice court of public obscenity and given a five-month suspended sentence. Staller has invited to perform in the Mito Brothers' O'Farrell Theatre in San Francisco.

### Centenarian weds, heads for honeymoon

RIYADH (R) — A Saudi Arabian in his 100th year married a 76-year-old woman in Mecca then headed for the hill resort Taif for a honeymoon. Oneworld newspaper reported Friday. groom, identified only as B.M.Z., paid a \$270 dowry for the ceremony, attended by his eldest son, aged 60, and several grandchildren. The cleric performing the marriage said the couple appeared in good health and predicted "not so a married life" for them.

### Revival of Buck Rogers

CHICAGO (AP) — An elevator that goes through the roof into outer space? Colonies on the Earth? A giant hook swings from the sky and scoops goods and passengers into space? Impossible. Then again... Six years ago, men walking on moon, lie detectors and instant cameras sounded equally plausible to most people. In 1929 predictions, and many more like them, were made in comic strip "Buck Rogers," set the year 2429. On Monday, grandchildren of one of the cartoon's creators gathered to make new predictions on what would have been Buck's 60th anniversary. "In 1929, when I came out with the numerous predictions in Buck Rogers, I thought they were 500 years in the future. And (much of it) came true within a century," said F. Dille, grandson of John F. Dille, who died in 1957. Dille's sister, Lorraine Williams, tried to bring back the strip as well as release a series of books and possibly a movie. But first, she said, they must revamp the future since much of their grandfather's future has already become reality.

### 'Soaps encourage people to drink'

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana Tuesday blamed soap operas for encouraging alcohol for influential people to drink. Diana, a teetotaler, also told a former alcoholic at a south London rehabilitation centre that people find it strange that she does not drink social. "She said that when she switched on Eastenders or Coronation Street the whole scene around those soap operas is drinking and pubs and of course that is influence," said Mike Abell, former resident at the centre who now runs his own programme to help alcoholics. Diana, the centre's patron, was referring to popular British soap operas, both of which feature many scenes in neighbourhood pubs. Abell quoted the princess as saying people found it "peculiar" that she does not drink on social outings but "she knows the difficulties people have, and she knows that society itself is geared towards drinking."

### Redford institute launches film

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP) — Robert Redford's Sundance Institute has launched the 11th annual United States film festival with a silent film. Instead of opening the festival with a new independent film as in previous years, organisers resurrected F.W. Murnau's classic film "Sunrise" for the opening Friday. The 1927 film was accompanied by few musical score composed by the institute's music director David Newman, and performed by the Utah symphony. The film's score was lost.